Should Colleges Advertise?

Opinion of Prof. E. C. Kirk, Dean of University of Pennsylvania.

Editor ITEMS OF INTEREST:

DEAR SIR—The question which you raise with regard to the right of colleges to advertise seems to me one not difficult to answer.

I am assuming that when the question of the right of a college to advertise its clinics is raised, reference is made rather to the method of advertising than as to the fact of advertising.

I take it for granted that wherever offense against the spirit of the Code of Ethics is given by an advertisement, the offense lies in the character and intent of the advertisement rather than in the abstract question of the right of a professional man or institution to advertise at all. You have yourself, I believe, drawn attention to the fact that a professional sign or door-plate is essentially an advertisement; so also is a professional card, or the adoption of a professional title. Therefore, it would appear that by common consent these restricted modes of making one's professional calling known to the public, though they are essentially advertising methods, are nevertheless considered to be within the limits of professional dignity.

The question then seems to be resolved into one of the extent to which a professional man or school may advertise within the limits of proper professional dignity. While it is difficult, even impossible, to define these limits positively, I hold to the belief that practically the same rules and motives should govern the advertising of a college clinic as are by common consent applicable to the professional practitioner in the community in which he lives. These are broadly stated in the Code of Ethics, and it would seem that no one who desired to live up to the spirit of the Code of Ethics would have any difficulty in deciding for himself to what extent he might advertise a college clinic in harmony with the Code.

Clinics Should Not Be Maintained for Profit.

While I take the ground that, broadly speaking, there should be no difference in the character of advertising indulged in by a college from that permitted to a practitioner, there is a considerable difference in the two cases when specifically examined. The clinic of a college is not, in my belief, to be regarded as a legitimate source of revenue to a dental educational institution. If conducted for the purposes of revenue, it becomes a device which enters into direct professional competition with the profession of the community in which the college is located, thereby working an injustice to practitioners who are properly entitled to the benefits of dental practice in that community, and by putting a financial valuation upon the services rendered far below their intrinsic worth to the patient, creates an additional wrong by tending to pauperize the patients who are the recipients of the service. A college clinic should, therefore, be conducted upon the basis of the absolute cost of materials used. This may properly include a sufficient profit on the first cost of materials to cover the loss necessarily incident to the mistakes due to the unskilled workmanship of student operators.

The college clinic is an educational necessity, not a means of revenue. Viewed as an educational necessity, I hold it to be perfectly legitimate and within the spirit of the Code for a dental college to advertise the fact that it maintains a clinic at which no charge for service is made, where the only charge is for material used; in other words, to state the plain facts of the case in public print, as it is generally admitted to be permissible for a hospital or for a medical institution to similarly announce opportunities for free dispensary service. By no other means can the class of people who support college clinics be reached.

I am aware that the principles here alluded to are not always strictly lived up to, and I surmise that whatever criticism of college advertising the profession may make, is really applicable to its irregular and unprofessional forms rather than to those phases of it which they themselves have come to regard as entirely within the spirit of the Code of Ethics, and it seems to me that discussion of this important problem should be strictly limited to those cases which are manifest infractions of the Code, rather than to the abstract one of the right to professional advertising, which, in the present stage of our development seems practically incapable of positive definition.

EDWARD C. KIRK.

Opinion of Prof. L. L. Dunbar, Dean of College of Dentistry, University of California.

Editor ITEMS OF INTEREST:

No Legitimate Excuse for College Advertising.

DEAR SIR—Your letter referring to the editorial "May Colleges Advertise in the Public Prints," has been received, and I feel that the criticisms of your correspondent were just and proper under the circumstances.

If it is unethical for a graduate to advertise in the manner indicated in the advertisement quoted, it is certainly more reprehensible in his sponsors, and no amount of sophistical argument would ever convince a right-thinking profession to the contrary. This protest is only one of the signs of the growing sentiment in opposition to the American besetting sin of commercialism. There is no earthly use in attempting to inculcate a higher standard of professional ethics among graduates, when those to whom they have looked for models of professional character are such signal failures.

I have been impressed for years with the attitude of competing colleges in large centers upon this question, and have wondered how long the profession would tolerate it without protest, or continue to receive in full fellowship such flagrant violators of the Code, and for one I am glad the crusade has begun. I have no doubt that an agitation of the matter will result in a clearing of the moral atmosphere, and put a stop to practices that are not only degrading to the schools but to the entire dental profession.

The multiplicity of dental schools is not due to any crying need for these, but proves that the profession generally believes there is "something in it," a *quid pro quo* for the labor involved. In several instances men prominent in college matters have abandoned lucrative practices, giving up their entire time to "educational work," presumably because it pays better or is a more congenial occupation.

If it is the former, it must furnish a return out of proportion to the service rendered, since the best possible service in any department of college work can be permanently secured for a compensation of $2,000 to $3,000 per annum, and scores of brilliant men would industriously prepare themselves for the work both here and abroad with no greater reward in view. That this is so, we have abundant evidence in the staff of every university in the land; yet how many able men, such as would be selected to fill professorships in dental schools, would abandon practice for a salary of two or three thousand dollars per annum?

It may be claimed that our professors devote themselves to this laborious work in addition to a full practice for the good of the profession without hope of other reward than the honors attached. There are some who are self-sacrificing enough to do this, but not many. The hope is for an ultimate pecuniary return in nearly every case, the inducement being the development of an active paying clinic, which, while in itself, not always a source of profit, enables the school to net a larger proportion of the sum received as fees from students, with consequently greater dividends.

There is no doubt that the college clinics in most large cities are an important factor in the competition young graduates are obliged to contend with in their earlier experience, but where these are conducted as complained of they exert a wider influence affecting the morale of the whole profession.

Frankly, I have no defense of the college side to make in this controversy. So long as the general public, in the persons of infirmary clients, is taxed for the maintenance of institutions for dental training, and the same countenanced by the National Dental Association, just so long will such schools multiply until every medical school will have its dental adjunct for the benefit of an infirmary income for its general support.

I have carried this reply to a greater length than originally intended, but I hope I am not the only college man who entertains the same view.

L. L. DUNBAR.

Opinion of Prof. W. C. Barrett, Dean of Dental Department, University of Buffalo.

Editor ITEMS OF INTEREST:

DEAR SIR—Your circular letter, relative to unprofessional advertising by dental colleges, with your invitation to present the college side of the question, would seem to imply that the colleges hold opinions upon the subject that differ from those of the rest of the profession.

I can assure you this is not the case, for the great majority of college men are, first of all, professional men themselves. You say, "I know that the charge that colleges advertise in an unprofessional manner is injurious to our educational interests." This is liable to an interpretation that I am sure you would, with me, believe unwarranted. To the unreflective man, it implies that *all* colleges so offend, inasmuch as the charge is general. With as much truth and justice might it be urged that dentists are unethical and unprofessional as a body, because a certain portion of

them practice in defiance of professional rules. Had it been charged that *some* colleges have advertised offensively, it would have been quite true and just, for, unfortunately, this cannot be denied. But such institutions are greatly in the minority, are not sustained by the voice of their colleagues, and bring reproach against the rest.

The instances of newspaper advertising of college infirmaries have, I believe, almost, if not entirely, been confined to newly organized schools, and have either been the result of thoughtlessness, or of that perverted system of morals which sometimes leads churches into the commission of dishonest acts, under the plea that the good end to be conserved justifies the bad means employed. I know of one rather flagrant instance of such advertising, which was brought against a school making application for membership in the National Association of Dental Faculties, the Dean of which had for many years borne a deservedly high reputation for a strict observance of the Code of Ethics. He made a very humble apology for the unreflective act, and pledged the school to a strict compliance for the future, as the basis upon which membership could alone be secured.

Prohibitive Legislation Contemplated.

Had the publication of the editorial in the May number of ITEMS OF INTEREST been delayed a few months, there would probably have been less occasion for it. At the meeting of the National Association of Dental Faculties at Omaha last summer, a resolution was passed providing that the rules and regulations of the Code of Dental Ethics regulating the conduct of practitioners in their relations with other practitioners, be approved and made obligatory upon the dental colleges of the association in their relation with each other.

It was thought this would cover the whole question of advertising, but at the meeting of the Technic Association, at Cincinnati, in December last, a conference of the representatives of some of the colleges was held, and this subject was discussed among others. The practice of the advertising of college infirmaries in local newspapers was condemned, and it was believed that effectually to prevent it, some further legislation was necessary. It was then decided that at the next annual meeting, a resolution specifically forbidding it should be introduced, and it was not anticipated that there would be a dissenting voice.

Dental Journals Blackmail the Colleges.

As for the comprehensive advertisements of colleges in dental journals, that has usually been at the urgent solicitation of their editors or publishers. It has been held the duty of the schools to sustain our literature in this manner, for it is well known that the subscription list is usually entirely inadequate for that purpose. In

some cases this solicitation has been very importunate. I know of one college that has expended many postage stamps in declining compliance with demands, sometimes made with the covert intimation that compliance will be necessary if the school is to expect the good will of the journal. But were I to make the sweeping charge that "the dental journals demand patronage from the colleges as the price of their favor," it would be as untrue as the general one that "dental colleges advertise unprofessionally."

Action of National Faculties Association.

Each year the National Association of Dental Faculties has endeavored to draw the line of duty more strictly. Each year it has added new regulations, and it has proceeded as fast as it felt that it could enforce its edicts. To do more would have defeated the objects desired, for unfortunately, as in the profession at large, there exist those who are not always actuated by motives of the highest ethical character, and such must be made to take the first step before they can be prevailed upon to take the second. It has been the aim of the association to forward the cause of education throughout our whole land; to hold the profession together as a unit, and not to divide and disrupt it by advancing the interests of a few at the expense of the many; not to carry a few favored colleges forward, abandoning some of their weaker sisters to the prostitution that in such an event would be their only alternative.

It has also been deemed the wisest course to admit to membership the schools which promised compliance with the rules and regulations of the association, that they might be kept in line by the influence of older and stronger colleges, rather than to force them into irregular practices by refusing them fellowship, and in some instances it is probable that matters have been overlooked that should not be condoned.

Each year the association has raised the standard of preliminary education, with the exception of one year, when the antagonism of the schools had been incited by specially irritative and arbitrary demands. The association has entered upon a progressive course of action to which it is now definitely pledged, but if it would carry all the schools forward, it must advance no faster than it can make sure of its ground. It has appointed a committee whose special duty it is to take cognizance of infringement of its rules during the interim between its annual meetings. That committee is directed to investigate any complaint that is made upon charges preferred by any reputable dentist. It cannot act until such specific accusations are made, for it must have some basis upon which to proceed. There is no disposition on the part of any college to shield a guilty party. The frequent discipline administered in the past gives

pledge of the truth of this. I know of nothing that would be more easy of proof, or more sure of punishment, than unprofessional advertising on the part of a college. Would it not have been better had charges of any such instances of misconduct been made to the proper authorities, and a close watch kept for the result? It cannot well be urged that this should have been done by the colleges themselves, for they are not the parties aggrieved, and besides, such infractions of a rule are not likely to reach the eyes of the college men, to say nothing of the fact that, as they must sit as judges, it is scarcely proper for them to act also as prosecutors.

W. C. BARRETT.

Opinion of a Graduate of Buffalo College.

Editor ITEMS OF INTEREST:

DEAR SIR—The subject of advertising colleges, as discussed in your May number, is a very interesting subject to me in many ways, and your views as expressed therein are mine.

We have a college in this city which, when first opened, advertised for patients in a very flattering manner until they had all the patients they wanted; then they stopped advertising, just as many offices do, advertise until they get a good practice.

I am not an advertiser at heart, but have been compelled. Our college here, the one I graduated from, has advertised such cheap work, that it is absolutely necessary for a young dentist to advertise if he expects to make a living here, and in order to get himself before the public he has to do something out of the ordinary. *I am going to do just as my college has done, stop advertising when I get a satisfactory practice.*

I am very much in favor of framing a bill to be presented to our legislators at Albany next fall, compelling all colleges in this State to assume the whole expense of their clinics, paying for materials and rendering services gratis to the really poor, and to none other. Would you support such a bill? I have a number of friends at Albany who would support any bill that I might introduce that was reasonable.

F. C. MACPHERSON, D. D. S.

Buffalo, N. Y., May 14, 1899.

Opinion of Prof. G. S. Junkerman, Dean of Cincinnati Dental College.

Editor ITEMS OF INTEREST:

DEAR SIR—The question of colleges advertising for the purpose of securing clinical material should not be a complex one to answer.

Colleges receive students for the purpose of teaching them the profession in which they are to engage. The college must have the clin-

ical material in order to accomplish this end. When students enter a dental school they select the one which can furnish them the largest clinic. It seems very inconsistent and childish, after having graduated from such an institution, to condemn it for the same point which was previously considered a virtue.

College Clinic a Financial Loss.

Speaking from our own experience of ten years, we find that our clinic is a source of trouble and financial loss instead of being a source of revenue, as it is generally thought to be by the outside profession. I do not say that this is the case with all colleges, and I do not say that it is not the case, but I state to you plain facts concerning our own institution. We would much prefer to be able to farm out our clinic, and were it possible, we would like to enter into a contract with any one, for example the dentists in our own city, to relieve us of the responsibility of furnishing clinic to our students, and giving a guarantee to supply sufficient for our student's needs, free of expense and trouble to us.

We could afford to pay our teachers a much better compensation for their labors were we not required at all to furnish a clinic. We do not complain of deficiency of clinic in our institution, but we have estimated that if the receipts of our clinic were divided among all the dentists of our own city, each one would receive about ten cents per day.

Why College Towns are Overcrowded.

Complaints must come from dentists located in towns where there are dental schools. Towns in which schools are located are usually overcrowded with dentists. Some students gather enough money together to come to a city and enter a dental school, and by hard economy and frugality are enabled to remain just long enough to complete their dental education. By the time they are through college they are absolutely without funds, and besides, as is frequently the case, indebted to their landladies for board and room for a prolonged period of time. What is left for them to do? They have not enough money to leave the town, and their landlady holds a mortgage on them, so that the natural conclusion is to place their signs on the front of the buildings in which they have lived so long, and start into the practice of dentistry.

Our reputable dental schools in Cincinnati graduated in the past year ninety-seven students. Out of these ninety-seven, thirty-three, more than one-third, have located in our own city. This is a ridiculously high per cent, and should such a thing continue the city, as a matter of course, must be overcrowded with struggling and dissatisfied dentists. From

the mouths of these I consider the complaints come that have so often been brought to your ears. We could look for nothing else. These men have been cast upon the public, and they are compelled to struggle for an existence. They have placed the cause of their poverty at the wrong source, which should not be a matter of surprise to any one. If colleges were not allowed to advertise, it would be a violation of the principles upon which this very Government was established by our forefathers. There is never any harm in speaking the truth and publicly proclaiming it.

How Colleges May Advertise.

When colleges state that they will perform dental services under the supervision of competent demonstrators, they should be allowed to have these statements go into the hands of such people as desire to make use of them. The college never guarantees anything, and never advertises to render professional services. If a college advertises on any different principles from those stated above, I think it is violating the Code of Ethics. The public have a perfect right any and all of them, to go to a dental school for such services as it can render. It is impossible for the college to look into the antecedents and the pocketbooks of its patients, to discover as to whether they are wealthy or poor. We never offer to serve our patients with professional services. We say we will do the best we can under the supervision of competent demonstrators, but the public are wise, and the reason the colleges have as large clinics as they have is that the people have been well served.

These are facts, and facts can always be spoken even in connection with dental college advertisements. If colleges were not permitted to advertise, it would be a menace and destruction to the advancement of dental education. Our forefathers in the profession endeavored to establish dental schools and to secure as much valuable clinical material as possible. If that principle was considered well by them, what reason have we to change it now? The college wants a clinic, it must have it, and it must let the public know that it is willing to accept it, and take good care of it. The dentists in a town do not send their poor patients to a college clinic. If they did probably the colleges would not have to advertise as much as they do. The whole question seems to hinge upon the immutable law known as the law of the survival of the fittest.

Every human being has a right to study dentistry if he chooses. When such time comes that the public will discover there are too many dentists, the pressure and tide will go in another direction. You cannot place a dental college clinic under a code of ethics as you do the dental profession. The dentist is prevented from advertising under the Code of

Ethics, because it is understood when he appropriates the title dentist, there remains nothing more to say in the support of his ability as such.

It is publicly presumed that all dentists are alike. They perform their services with equal skill, and they receive like remuneration for the same. Such should be the case if the Code is lived up to. The Code implies that the professional man builds his practice from the reputation given by patients who have personally profited by his services. The Code permits the insertion of a card announcing the fact that the individual is a dentist, and where he may be found. Having said this, everything has been said. If any one does not know what the word dentist means, by consulting the dictionary he will discover that he is an individual who makes artificial teeth, crowns, bridges, etc., etc. It may be further implied in the definition also that he is not a robber and that his prices are what they should be.

The public know pretty well what is implied by the word dentist. They are ignorant as to what dental college clinics can do for them, and they have a right to be posted. Educating the public is one of the greatest benefits derived by the dentist from the dental college clinics.

The advertisement used by our institution is herewith enclosed, and we feel that in the use of such an advertisement no harm can be done, and that in reality the dentists of our city are benefited by it.

G. S. JUNKERMAN.

The Cincinnati College of Dental Surgery,

231-233 WEST COURT STREET,

BETWEEN ELM AND PLUM STREETS

Open Daily, except Sundays, from 8 A. M. to 5 P. M.
Teeth Treated and Extracted Free.
Artificial Teeth, Crown and Bridgework, and all kinds of Fillings inserted. Teeth Straightened.
Gas given Mondays in suitable cases.

A SMALL CHARGE FOR MATERIAL ONLY.

All Operations under the supervision of a Large Corps of Competent Demonstrators.

Opinion of Prof. Wilbur F. Litch, Dean of Pennsylvania College.

Editor ITEMS OF INTEREST:

DEAR SIR—If clinical instruction is to be carried on in dental colleges, patients must be secured, and it is difficult to see how this can be done without recourse to the public prints; but the form of college advertising reproduced in ITEMS OF INTEREST for May is, in my judgment, in the highest degree objectionable. A simple card of four or five lines, without price lists, big capitals, or other forms of "display," is all that should be permissible by any reputable dental college.

WILBUR F. LITCH, M. D., D. D. S.

Opinion of Prof. Otto Arnold, Dean of Dental Department, Ohio University.

Editor ITEMS OF INTEREST:

DEAR SIR—The conferring of the dental degree carries with it presumptive evidence that the recipient is reasonably well equipped with that particular knowledge and skill which the degree implies. Therefore, to faithfully fulfill what is understood to be the object and aim of dental schools, ample facilities and opportunities must be provided students that they may obtain the knowledge and acquire the skill which the public naturally expects them to possess.

In our educational system we place highest value upon clinical instruction and practice. It is analogous to the hospital experience for medical students, and I can conceive of no dental graduate without clinical experience.

In order to supply clinical advantages to their students, many of our dental colleges find it necessary to announce to the public in some form the fact of their existence. This is particularly true of those colleges that maintain a dental dispensary during the regular college terms only, as in the interim between courses, the public loses sight of the matter, and resumption of the service must again be brought to their notice. The question then arises, in what form shall such notices appear? I believe that a simple announcement to the aforesaid effect in the public press is all sufficient, but this much is nothing more than a duty we owe to our students, the public and the dental profession, unless an abundance of material is forthcoming without it.

Improper Advertisements a Disgrace.

On the other hand I cannot too deeply denounce as unprofessional, undignified and a burning disgrace, the practice of some colleges soliciting *business* by offering dental bargains, circulating hand bills, etc., etc.

I am glad that this subject is being agitated, as I believe it will lead to some action in the matter by the National Association of Dental Faculties at their next meeting. OTTO ARNOLD.

Opinion of Prof. Geo. V. I. Brown, Dean of Dental Department, Milwaukee Medical College.

Editor ITEMS OF INTEREST:

Colleges Should Not Advertise Clinics.

DEAR SIR—Would say that the Dental Department of the Milwaukee Medical College does not advertise for patients for its infirmary. We who are in charge of it, believe that the Code of Ethics should apply to colleges just as well as, and exactly in the same manner that it does to practitioners of dentistry; that ethics are important in all of the relations of dental colleges to the profession, to other colleges, to students and to the public generally.

The Medical Department of this college considers it unethical to advertise for patients for infirmary work, and why should not the Dental Department be equally particular in this respect? We think that it should be, and it is.

I do not wish to be considered as reflecting a criticism upon other schools whose faculties look at the matter differently. For us it is an easy matter to follow along this line, since we have an abundance of patients at all times, by reason of the peculiar situation of our college, without the necessity of being obliged to advertise to secure a sufficient number for the training of students. Were we continually troubled by a shortage in this respect, as many schools are, we might act differently, although in our hearts we would be unalterably opposed to the principle of unprofessional advertising by colleges, even as we are now.

GEO. V. I. BROWN.

Opinion of Prof. Truman W. Brophy, Dean of Chicago College of Dental Surgery.

Editor ITEMS OF INTEREST:

DEAR SIR—Permit me to call your attention to a resolution on page 34 of the proceedings of the fifteenth annual meeting of the National Association of Dental College Faculties, as follows:

"*Resolved,* That the rules and regulations of the Code of Dental Ethics, regulating the conduct of practitioners in their relations with other

practitioners, be approved and made obligatory upon the dental colleges of this association, in their relations to other colleges."

This rule not only regulates the relations of colleges with other colleges, but requires the strict observance of the Code of Ethics, and any infraction of that Code which comes to the knowledge of any practitioner should be communicated to the chairman of the Executive Committee of the National Association of Dental College Faculties.

The association should strictly enforce these rules, and I have no doubt it will.

Unethical Advertisements in Dental Journals.

Personally, I am opposed to colleges adopting methods of advertising that would be regarded as unprofessional, if used by dental practitioners. The matter of ethics should apply to professional journalism as well as schools, and I would call your attention to the fact that dental journals are very often employed for advertising nostrums and extending the sale of useless articles, and for the furthering of the interests of so-called educational institutions which admit to the senior class men who have never attended a college before.

I hope that your efforts will be appreciated, and that you will be successful in this special work of elevating the ethics of schools, as you mention in your editorial, and I hope that it will be the means of preventing the very objectionable advertising of nostrums and institutions of disrepute, at home as well as abroad.

TRUMAN W. BROPHY.

Opinion of Prof. J. D. Patterson, Kansas City Dental College.

Editor ITEMS OF INTEREST:

DEAR SIR—I thoroughly appreciate the objections to the advertisements of many colleges, but as the colleges *must have clinical material,* I therefore think a brief and decent notice, like the following, which I have had in the Kansas "Star" during our college term for the last few years, is pardonable, although I freely confess I would rather we did not have to advertise at all:

> "The Kansas City Dental College Infirmary, corner of Tenth street and Troost avenue, is open from 9 A. M. to to 3 P. M. All who are unable to pay for dental operations can have same performed for cost of material only."

The Worthy Poor Difficult to Reach.

Allow me to call your attention to one statement in your editorial as follows: "If the colleges would assume the whole expense of their clinics, paying for materials, and rendering services to the really poor and to none other, they would reach a class not now

receiving any dental attention, and this would be rendering a worthy charity."

Allow me to say, Mr. Editor, that I doubt if you have had much experience along that line, or you would know that you cannot get *"the really poor"* to come to the infirmary; at least I could not, and I tried it faithfully. There are reasons for this—several of them—such as poor clothes, shame at needing charity, etc., etc., but I found upon close inquiry that the most potent reason is that "the really poor" *cannot give the time* necessary and come to the infirmary when they can be waited on. *They do not, or will not come anyhow,* except a very few. I wish they would. When they *do* come, we are glad to do their work gratis.

I do not believe that our advertising leads our graduates to indulge in advertising. If I had proof that it did, *it would stop,* for The Kansas City Dental College and every member of its faculty would scorn to set an example which would lead to a violation of the ethics of the profession.

For the colleges that advertise: "Free Dentistry," "Come early and avoid the rush," "Absolutely free during this month," etc., etc., *ad nauseam,* they should receive the condemnation of every decent professional man.

J. D. PATTERSON, D. D. S.,
Secretary The Kansas City Dental College.

Opinion of Dr. W. P. Burt, of Atlanta, Ga.

Editor ITEMS OF INTEREST:

DEAR SIR—I have read with much interest the editorial in the May ITEMS OF INTEREST on Dental College Advertisements. I will discuss briefly the baneful effects of the advertising system practiced by the dental colleges of this city.

In my opinion there is no one thing tending more to degrade the profession of dentistry in Georgia, or more hurtful to the practice in this State, than the methods resorted to by the dental colleges of this city to obtain work. I inclose some of the advertisements of the Atlanta College clipped from the leading daily papers of the city.

The first is a fair sample of the advertisements of the Atlanta Dental College which appear during the winter season when the college is in session. During the summer months there is not even the pretense of a summer course, but a few undergraduates run the Infirmary, or it would probably be more correct to say they run an office in the college and advertise cheap dentistry. I append a summer advertisement as evidence of the methods resorted to to secure patronage.

Free Dental Work—Free Dental work at the Atlanta Dental College, 38½ Marietta street. None but advanced students will be permitted to operate and their work will be personally directed and superintended by Dr. Thomas Crenshaw, and competent assistants. This is an admirable opportunity for excellent services at bare cost of material.

Dr. Thomas Crenshaw having taken charge of the Infirmary practice of the Atlanta Dental College will be in attendance each morning from 8:30 to 11 o'clock, and at his office from 11 o'clock through the remainder of the day. The Infirmary will from this date be open all day.—ATLANTA DENTAL COLLEGE, 38½ MARIETTA ST., ATLANTA, GA.

Atlanta Dental College,

Intermediate Infirmary Course.

The infirmary of the Atlanta Dental College will open on Monday, March 29th, 9 a. m., continuing four months or longer.

The infirmary practice of this institution has, during the winter months, afforded many of the citizens of Atlanta an opportunity to have dental work done who, without the advantages thus offered, could not have had such services.

The infirmary will be under the daily supervision of the faculty.

WILLIAM CRENSHAW, D. D. S.,
Dean.

Atlanta Dental College.

Infirmary course begins Monday, March 20th, and continues four months under the supervision of the faculty, Drs. Crenshaw, Chappin, Jewiet, Hinman and McDonald. All work will be done at a slight advance over cost of material.

A. K. FORT, D.D.S.,
Demonstrator in charge.

A few words as to charges made, and the class of people worked for. A young lady of good social standing was in my office today; has two small approximal gold fillings in her front teeth filled at Atlanta Dental College. Charge $1.00 each.

Recently, wife of a well known physician of this city, showed me a two-teeth gold bridge. Paid the Atlanta Dental College $9.00.

Last week a gentleman of ample means to pay all bills called to see me about an upper set of teeth; paid Atlanta Dental College $5.00 to make it.

Two months ago made full set for a gentleman. He had poorly fitting upper set he paid Atlanta Dental College $5.00 for. He is worth half a million; owns in the city of Atlanta over one hundred houses.

A lady of excellent social standing called at my office a few weeks ago, to engage me to make her an upper set of teeth. Said she went to the Atlanta Dental College; was told by a student to wait until after the close of the college term and he would make her a set for $4.00; that he would be in the college all summer. She did not return because her brother-in-law had a set made there and was not pleased.

If any of my statements are questioned, I am ready to give names of each case cited and many more.

Many dentists of this city will support my assertion that the dental colleges of Atlanta by extensively advertising "first class dentistry and cheap prices" have become active competitors for a great deal of the dental patronage of the city and surrounding country. A well known dentist living seventy-five miles from Atlanta, informed me recently that people from his vicinity come to Atlanta to patronize the colleges.

As the students are not allowed to pocket one cent of the fruits of their work, all the receipts go to increase the revenues coming to the faculty.

I have but one remedy to suggest: If it were in my power I would add to the law regulating the practice of dentistry in every State, after reciting qualifications to practice, this section:

"Provided: That nothing in this act shall prevent dental students performing dental operations in the office, and under the personal supervision and direction of any dentist regularly licensed under this act. Nor prevent dental students during the regular lecture course of any chartered dental college in this State from performing free dental operations for charitable patients under the personal supervision and direction of the professors or clinical demonstrators of the college."

You can hardly imagine the evil effects the Atlanta College practice has exerted on dentistry in this city and section. Several of their graduates went direct from the graduating class to advertising parlors.

One to the Union Parlors, of this city, at $30.00 per month. One is now in the Montgomery (Ala.) Parlors, owned by Dr. J. D. Lanier, of this city.

Dr. R. F. Ingram, 6 Walton street, this city, occupied his present office with dental sign over the door, and string of teeth he had extracted ten feet long festooned around it for a year or more before he graduated, and while he was a student at the college. Ingram graduated in the '98 class. Several members of the last winter classes are known to have had private offices in this city during the winter course.

It is estimated that the profits from the infirmary of the Atlanta College not only pays for "material," but pays the rent of the college building. I have heard one of the professors quoted, though I do not know it to be true, that they kept the infirmary open through the summer to pay the rent.

(The above communication from Dr. Burt contained other allegations which we have decided to suppress, and in publishing so much as we do, we must explain that upon receipt of Dr. Burt's letter a copy of the same was sent to one of the professors of the Atlanta College, asking if he wished to reply to same and whether he objected to our republishing his advertisements. The Professor replied declaring that he had no objection to our publishing the advertisements, which, therefore, we have copied as they appeared in print, and the profession may judge whether or not they are within the scope of the code. The Professor protested against the publication of Dr. Burt's letter, for which reason we have suppressed such parts as seemed possibly actuated by personal spite and not specifically germain to the subject of advertising by colleges, and the effects thereof. While the Professor's letter was not for publication, it seems proper in justice to the college to state that he declares that the allegations by Dr. Burt are contrary to facts, that Dr. Burt himself is an advertiser, and for that reason had been unable to obtain membership in the local dental society, and that he had personally appeared before the Senate to oppose the passage of the dental law.

We have also learned that the Faculty expelled a member of the senior class of '98-'99 for advertising during the Christmas holidays. The college catalogue for '98-'99 contains *fac simile* signatures of the graduating class affixed to the Code of Ethics, and the Dean's address to the students was certainly exemplary and ethical to the highest degree. Nevertheless, it seems to us that the style of the college advertisements is scarcely in keeping with the teaching of the institution, and the matter is

referred to the National Association of Dental Faculties as worthy of their consideration. A communication was sent to Dr. Burt stating that we had learned that he himself has advertised in a reprehensible manner, and his reply is a contribution to the discussion as to the effects of college advertisements, and is therefore appended. We desire it to be distinctly understood that we do not vouch for the statements in Dr. Burt's letter, especially since their truth is denied by one of the college faculty. We think, however, that they are worthy of being investigated and their truth or falsity should be readily determined since he mentions names. The fact that he himself is unethical does not necessarily invalidate his testimony. —Editor.)

Letter from Dr. Burt.

Editor ITEMS OF INTEREST:

DEAR DOCTOR—Yes, I have done some advertising since I came to Atlanta (from Americus, Ga.), two and one-half years ago. Not from choice, but I regarded it as a necessity. I am compelled to make a living for self and family, and the methods resorted to by the colleges to obtain patronage so materially reduced the amount and price of work that would voluntarily come to my office, that I felt forced to meet their methods. Their "ads" of "good work and cheap prices" were backed up by such additions to name as "Dean," "Professor," etc.—very different from the ordinary dental parlor "ads."

Offers to Stop Advertising if College Stops.

If the colleges will quit advertising for work under official indorsement, and do any charity work as the Georgia law requires, I will agree, and also get a number of other local dentists to agree to quit advertising, and do all in our power to elevate the standard of the profession in the State.

Dr. J. H. Coyle, of Thomasville, was in Atlanta yesterday, on his way to Lithia Springs to attend a meeting of the State Dental Society. In discussing and condemning the colleges he said while he was president of the State Board he notified Dr. Crenshaw that it was against the law for colleges in Georgia to charge for work, and that he must discontinue the practice, which he agreed to do. This statement was made to Dr. N. P. Smith, of this city. Besides other qualifications, no person in Georgia is permitted to do any dental work for pay who has not paid to the State an annual license fee of $10.00. I have paid it thirty-one years.

I enclose an "ad" clipped from the *Atlanta Journal,* 10th inst., of the other local college, "The Southern." They also do a good deal of advertising, but not as much as the Atlanta College. I am informed that

there is no one in daily attendance at the Southern who is authorized by law to practice dentistry. Several students are there doing cheap work.

I am only an obscure dentist trying to make a living by meeting conditions forced upon me. The college professors are, in the public eye, setting an example before more than two hundred students who annually attend these local colleges.

Of course, do as you like about publishing my letter. What is best to elevate and improve the profession in Georgia suits me.

Atlanta, Ga., June 13, 1899. W. P. BURT.

Opinion of a Practitioner.

Editor ITEMS OF INTEREST:

DEAR SIR—The editorial in May ITEMS OF INTEREST, "May Colleges Advertise in Public Prints," contains views which I have held all these years. I graduated in 1889 from a college that used a similar advertisement in the leading newspapers of Chicago, which was the means of bringing about fourteen thousand patients to that institution that term. As for doing the work for cost of materials, I charged at college the following prices: $1 for cleaning teeth; from $1.50 to $3.50 and sometimes $4 for gold fillings, and $6 to $8 for plates. I made a full upper set, gold plate, and the college received $25 for it.

I am glad this matter is being brought to light. I have always claimed that a graduate has the same right to advertise as a dental college, and as long as they do it, I shall continue in my claim, and this one fact of colleges advertising has been one main cause for advertising offices springing up, not only in all our large cities, but in the small ones as well.

Men who do an advertising business in Chicago and in San Francisco, have told me they were driven to do it to hold their own with these dental colleges. And do we blame them? If so, I say blame the colleges, as well.

Another feature is the fact that some of these same college men are leaders in our State societies, and exclude from membership men who are well up in the profession, because they advertise. When they (the professors of dental colleges) are the worst advertisers. It makes a difference whose ox is gored. You have struck a blow at the root of advertising (the colleges), and when they quit it, then they can draw the line, and not before. Reputable colleges are required, but is not the college business being badly overdone to the detriment of the practitioner when advertising for patronage?

J. W. SMITH, D. D. S.

Charleston, Ill., May 9, 1899.

The following are copies of advertisements forwarded by a prominent Dean, as samples of how a dental college should not advertise.

(*The Pittsburg Post,* October 5, 1897.)

WANTED—MISCELLANEOUS.

For 40 years the colleges of Philadelphia and New York have cared for the teeth of thousands. The same opportunity is offered you at Pittsburg Dental College, 711 Penn ave.

PERSONAL—First 10 days of October special rates on all dental work at Pittsburg Dental College, 711 Penn ave.

LOST.

WANTED—You to bring this with you and secure 10 per cent discount on dental work at Pittsburg Dental College, 711 Penn ave.

FOUND.

FOUND—Teeth on plates, $1 to $4; crowns, $2 to $4 each; fillings correspondingly low; teeth extracted; teeth cleaned and all diseases of the mouth treated free. Pittsburg Dental College, 711 Penn ave.

Facts About the Disgraceful Issuing of Degrees and Licenses in the State of Illinois.

By Paul Steinberg, M. D. S., D. D. S., Chicago, Ill.

The protest raised by the American Dental Society of Europe against illegal institutions in the States of Illinois and Wisconsin, which have flooded this and European countries with their bogus diplomas, has been recognized not only by the American Association of Dental Faculties, who created the Foreign Relation Committee at its last annual meeting in Omaha, for the sole purpose of suppressing such institution, but also by every honorable D. D. S. of this country!

Now, as war has been declared on "Fake Diploma Mills," in order to facilitate this work, it is my earnest belief that every dentist, knowing of unlawful actions by colleges, should be forthcoming with them and not be afraid of having the truth published!

I have heard of such diploma sale and the unlawful issuing of the State licenses in this State, since I came to Chicago, which was more than seven years ago. Repeatedly I tried to interest members of the Board, but the evidence was not strong enough, as it was more or less hearsay, but I never stopped till I had collected data, which I consider strong evidence against the corrupt actions of the parties concerned.

Fraudulent Diploma.

The first is the fraudulent obtaining of the title of D. D. S. by Fritz W. Huxmann, licensed Oct. 21, 1881. Dean of the German American Dental College. Dr. W. Kuster, of this city, who was connected with this college in its earlier days, assures me that he as well as the other members of the faculty, was induced by the Dean, Fritz Huxmann to fill out some blanks, which were to be given as duplicate diplomas to some students, who desired to have it attested by a notary public and the German Consul of this city, for the sole reason to make this worthless parchment appear somewhat bigger in the eyes of the German public. Instead of using all these duplicates, "Huxmann" filled one of them out with his name. Ever since he holds the title of D. D. S., besides Professor, Dean, etc.

Fraudulent License.

The second case is that of the fraudulent obtainig of a license from this State by a gentleman named Samuel Schlesinger (now practicing in partnership in Vienna, Austria), with the aid of Dr. Huxmann, who, at the time this took place was the secretary of the State Board of Dental Examiners. Schlesinger was examiner in Huxmann's private room, on the sixteenth floor of the Schiller Building, and not as the law prescribes, together with the rest of the candidates. The interpreter was appointed by Dr. Huxmann, the latter gentleman's own assistant (whose name by request I will not mention as yet, but who promised at any time, should the board take action, to repeat his accusations). The latter had not only to translate the papers as well as he was able to, but had also to help answer the questions received. By the interpreter's own statement, he is himself only very little conversant with the English language. The candidate was allowed to use Dr. Huxmann's library. The interpreting gentleman, by order of Dr. Huxmann, demanded of the candidate $60 for this service, the half of which he was forced to deliver to Huxmann. By the candidate's statement, as the interpreter tells me, his license to practice was bought at the price of about $300. This took place in '93.

Fraudulent Diplomas.

Another diploma case is that of Zahntechnicker Grün of Thorn, in Germany. He took only *one course* at the G. A. D. C. Part of his time was spent with relatives in Leadville and New York, so that the time spent at his studies could hardly amount to even one full course; nevertheless he was allowed to come up for graduation. "He failed." Dr. Huxmann then informed him that on the payment of $50 he could try again right away. Mr. Grün paid the money; he then was given the ques-

tions, which were worked out with the help of another dentist at home, and on the strength of this more than questionable examination, was given his diploma, and the title of D. D. S. Mr. Rolle, Zahnartz of Wiburg, Finland, was another candidate who failed, but when he paid the sum of $25 or $30 he was allowed to try again, and then received his diploma.

The German A. D. College *Honoris causa* degree was granted to Mr. Max Bejuch, chief editor of the *Zahnärtzlichen Rundschau,* Berlin, (Huxmann's advertising medium), and his friend Mr. Laury; also to Zahnartz, Zeuner of Kasan in Russia, and lately to a gentleman in Zurick, Paul de Terre. The gentleman who has given me most of these facts was for many years closely connected with this college, holding a professorship. I hold his signature that above statements are true.

Dr. Huxmann hardly ever failed to have licenses issued for graduates and undergraduates; he recently prepared a candidate of about twenty-four years of age for the Board examination; the candidate was no more than six months in this country; was Zahntechnicker in Germany, and had only attended the German-American College for just that time. If required I will give the name of this gentleman and nine more such candidates which passed the board at the time under similar circumstances in '98. Dr. Huxmann seemed for years to manage to be good friends with the different secretaries of the State Board. I trust that the mystery surrounding these and many more cases will be successfully lifted.

Fraudulent Licenses.

While Huxmann was the secretary of the board he had back licenses issued to every graduate of his college, and so it happened that a barber, Philip Orth, who had taken two courses at the Huxmann College, I think in 1890, being more than sixty years of age, had his license issued, and so half of his barber shop was arranged as dental parlor; he announced himself to the public as Dr. Philip Orth (I believe this gentleman has since given up his double business). At these last State Board examinations, I believe in March, the following gentlemen of Huxmann's school passed the board: Zahnartz Eugen Pfeiffer, Emil Doerring and Oscar Stahl, all of whom were given the questions in German by the *indispensable* Dr. Huxmann, who was again interpreter for his own college students, which service brings $25 apiece. I do not wish to injure the candidates, but this wholesale issuing of licenses under above conditions ought to be stopped by all means. The sole purpose of these gentlemen in obtaining the State Board license, as they never practice in this country, lays in the fact that they like to have something more than this German college diploma to show upon their return to the old country, to prove

that they are full fledged American dentists. There is Th. Lübeck of Ausbach, in Bavaria, who attaches the letters L. D. S. to his name because he received license with the help of Dr. Huxmann from the Illinois State Board, therefore he is a Licentiate of Dental Surgery.

During the past few years all Huxmann's students must pass the State Board first, before they are given the diploma as a Doctor of Dental Surgery by the G. A. D. C.; but does this give a greater value to that diploma, if the State Board examination lays entirely in the hands of Dr. Huxmann? There has hardly ever been a member on the board, aside from Dr. Huxmann, that understood the German language sufficiently to conduct an examination therein.

The G. A. D. C. had nothing to lose in presenting its candidates first to the Board before granting the diploma. Thereby it only secured recognition of the State Board of Illinois, as has not been the case heretofore; in fact, its reputability has repeatedly been questioned by former State Boards. Inquiry made by the German Government regarding the reputability of that college was formerly answered by her Consul in this city thus: "College is regularly chartered by the State Board of Illinois, its diploma being recognized by the State Board of Dental Examiners," and never a word is mentioned that this school does not belong to the National Association of Dental Faculties.

There exists also in this city the Cosmopolitan Post-Graduate School of Dentistry, its Dean Dr. C. Weil, 704 Belmont Avenue, who issued diplomas after a course of six weeks, bearing the title of D. D. S. Dr. C. Weil is a former German-American Dental College professor, just as the famous Dr. Albert, of Milwaukee, Wis., is a Huxmannian scholar. Another such school is that of Dr. Malock, who will give diplomas in anything you desire, D. D. S., M. D., Ph. G., Midwifery, etc., Milwaukee Avenue, city. This was quite sufficient for most of the European governments (as they cannot comprehend the corruption of some of our American colleges) to allow the holder of such diplomas to affix the title of Doctor Chir. Dent., American Dentist, etc., to their names without further molestation; at least there is no differentiation made between a fake or well-earned American diploma in Europe! The German government since 1897 does not allow any American graduate to call himself a Doctor of Dental Surgery, except by special permit.

The following questions I have presented to the different members of the Illinois State Board of Dental Examiners:

(1) Are you in favor of granting licenses to foreigners, who never intend to practice in this country, but simply wish to have the State license in order to present themselves as full-fledged American dentists abroad? Some going so far as to attach the L. D. S. to their names.

(2) Should not the interpreter be a gentleman who is in no way interested in the candidate?

(3) Are you aware that Drs. Huxmann and Weil make it their business to present candidates to the board, and never fail to have them passed? I know of many such cases—one particular—a Mr. Linzemann, Zahntechniker of Mulhausen, who being but two weeks in this country, passed the board with the aid of Dr. Weil, who was interested in this gentleman, and by this time no doubt is also a D. D. S.

(4) Could it be possible that such candidates can pass the board, were the interpreter independently appointed and not self-appointed, as are those who make it their most profitable business to prepare foreign candidates for the Illinois State Board in wholesale; they advertise to that effect in German dental journals, announcing that it is still possible to pass the Illinois Board under the most favorable conditions, but only during the next two more terms!

(5) Do you know that these gentlemen receive $25 per candidate for interpreting? As I understand, March, '98, there were ten such candidates—making it a very profitable business for Dr. Huxmann, besides his charging the candidates $50 and more for preparatory course, which specialty consists of nothing more than handing the questions and answers to the candidates in advance, with the understanding that they are to keep secret the term of their preparation, also to sign a contract to take the final course at $100 at his college after receiving the State Board license.

(6) Are your examination papers open for inspection? If so, will you kindly appoint a time that I might see and inspect the papers of all foreign candidates who were admitted to the Board by Drs. Huxmann and Weil?

(7) Is the German-American Dental College recognized by the Illinois State Board? If not, why can all Huxmann's students pass the Board without difficulty—must this not either prove the recognition of the college or the corruptness with which the State Board examinations are carried on?

(8) How long will this State allow Colleges to exist, like the Cospopolitan Post-Graduate School of Dr. C. Weil, which confers diplomas after a course of six weeks, and the German-American Dental College, which does the same thing in six months, and in but very few instances one year?

(9) Can you give me a complete list of such foreigners, who have passed the State Board, and those who have failed—(in case there are any of the latter class)?

(10) Have you been aware of the fact that Dr. Smyser tried to with-

hold licenses of such students on the ground that they first ought to learn something, and that they must finish in Dr. Huxmann's college before they could receive and make use of their license?

Dr. Smyser was not so successful with every candiate. A gentleman who has informed me of those facts was not quite so green as Dr. S. supposed him to be, and upon Dr. Smyser's request, *by letter,* to take the final $100 course, he flatly refused the invitation, and demanded his State Board license, which finally was given him to keep him quiet.

Copy of Dr. Smyser's letter sent to Dr. X X.

March 28, '98.

DEAR SIR—Your examination papers submitted to the meeting of the State Board of Dent. Ex. March 12, '98, will entitle you to the license to practice dentistry in the State of Illinois as soon as you pass the final examination in the German-American Dental College.

DR. L. A. SMYSER,
Secretary of the State Board.

LETTER FROM DR. H. W. PITNER.

FAIRFIELD, ILL., May 29, 1899.

Paul Steinberg, D. D. S., Chicago, Ill.:

DEAR DOCTOR—Your remarkable letter at hand, and in reply will say this is not the first letter of similar import, but as yours seems to be open and manly, it shall receive my notice.

You make some very damaging assertions, which I hope are not sustained by the facts, yet as an honest man I cannot let such specific charges against a Board, of which I am a member, pass by unnoticed. Now, my dear Doctor, if you have any grievances I will listen to what you have to say. You or any reputable dentist in Illinois are at liberty to examine any or all of my papers. I have saved them all. I fear no investigation of my official acts. I have not looked over the papers of the last examination. *No one saw them* until the morning of the examination.. I would be pleased to have you come to Fairfield, and bring with you some other prominent dentist, and make the investigation you desire. If your charges are correct, I want to know it. I want you to send or bring German journals with ads in them.

I am not in touch with the Secretary of the Board. As that gentleman ignores my letters, I never know who passes the Board, or who does not. The Secretary has not, as yet, made a report to the Board. I think he absorbs all the money collected, as I have not received one dollar for

my services up to the present moment, and have given all time and expenses out of my own pocket, and I think it is the same way with the other members except the Secretary. I have understood he has been trying to raise revenue by assessment of the profession, and am trying to find the truth of the report. I have given the Board notice that there will be a lively time at our next meeting. I want all these ugly rumors cleared up, and would appreciate any help I might receive from my professional brethren.

I was not appointed on the Board for revenue, and I knew there was no pay attached, and I will never lend my name or person to any unmanly or dishonest practice or scheming. I alone made the agreement with Dr. Huxmann. He was to translate in the presence of the Board, and was to deposit $25.00 for a fee for independent verification by a *disinterested German scholar* who was competent. I thought he would do as he agreed, for I told him I would stand no foolishness nor trifling; and further, I told him he could have no say in the matter of *verifying the translation,* and that *if we found any attempt* upon his part of *assisting* the *student* by a false translation, he could never again bring a foreigner before the Board who did not stand his examination in plain English.

I have been noticing for some time that the German students were very similar in their answers, and unusually bright in their replies, much more so than our American boys, but I did not suspect such damnable trickery as you attribute to Dr. Smyser, for he told me he had a bright German scholar, a *friend of his,* who verified for the Board, and I supposed him all right.

If you can prove your charges, in the name of God come down here with your proofs, and I will turn heaven or raise hell to have the guilty banished from the Board.

I only hope your suspicions are groundless. I do not want to think of any member of the Board as anything but a gentleman good and true, with the good of our profession at heart.

Respectfully yours,

H. W. PITNER.

LETTER FROM DR. KUESTER.

As I have been informed, F. W. Huxmann, of this city, is in possession of a diploma conferring the degree of Doctor of Dental Surgery upon himself, and my name having been used as a Professor signing the same, I wish to make it known that if it be true that F. W. Huxmann is

in possession of such a diploma, I herewith declare the same *void,* as I never signed a diploma conferring the degree of D. D. S. upon the aforesaid party. I will admit, however, that I did deliver lectures at the German-American Dental College at this time when it is said this diploma was issued.

I also know that students have obtained in this particular college, without standing as many courses as the State law of Illinois prescribes, diplomas conferring the degree of D. D. S., which, in my opinion, is an injustice and does by no means reflect credit upon the American dentist abroad. Respectfully,

WM. KUESTER, D. D. S.

Chicago, Ill., June 1, 1899.

ADVERTISEMENT FROM
Zahnärztliche Rundschau, Berlin.

Staatsexamen
in
Amerika
betreffend!

Bekannil finden nur noch 2 Prüfungen vor der staatl. Prüfungsbehörde für

Zahnärzte
im
Staate Illinois

nach den seitherigen Bestimmungen statt. Es findet diesen Sommer ein

Vorbereitungskursus

hierzu statt, und bittet man Interessenten. sich unter „Rgd Hcb 9748" an die Expedition ds. Bl. zu wenden. (15728)

TRANSLATION.

Concerning State Examination in America.

Only two more examinations will be held before the Illinois State Dental Examining Board in accordance with the old statutes.

A preparatory course will be given this summer. Persons interested please address Rgd Hcb 9748 of this paper.

LETTER FROM DOCTOR PFENNIG.

I herewith state that the following facts have been given to me by Otto Cohn, D. D. S., of the six weeks' Post-Graduate School of Dr. Weil, and licentiate of the Illinois State Board of Dental Examiners, March 28.

Said Otto Cohn took a preparatory course with Dr. Huxmann for the State Board examination, for which he had to pay $50.00. On the evening before the Board's examination took place, he, as well as nine

more candidates, were given the questions and answers by Huxmann, under the promise to keep it secret and to take one course at Huxmann's college at $100.00. The candidates had to pay off $25.00 to Dr. Huxmann. They all passed the Board and received the license, but not until a sharp demand was made to the Secretary, Dr. Smyser, who refused them repeatedly on the ground, that they first had to take another course in the Huxmann College. Mr. Otto Cohn had not done so, but instead took a Post-Graduate course with Dr. Haskell, on which ground he received the D. D. S. diploma from Dr. Weil's "Cosmopolitan Post-Graduate School."

These are the facts as represented to me by Mr. Otto Cohn himself.

As this gentleman was in my employ as helper in the laboratory, I had the opportunity to notice his lack of any theoretical knowledge and operative skill, and if it were not for the facts, as given by himself, it would have been a miracle to me how he could have passed the State Board examination.

E. PFENNIG, D. D. S.

Chicago, Ill., June 1, 1899.

STATEMENT SIGNED BY DR. SCHNITKER.

Schlesinger had established a dental office in Wells street, near Goethe, and practiced there under his own name without having a license. Induced by a communication directed to Schlesinger by Huxmann, then the Secretary of the State Board of Dental Examiners, a "Zahnarzt," Dittman, on a certain day called on Huxmann, on the sixteenth floor of the Schiller Building to confer with him about Schlesinger.

The result of the conference was that Schlesinger, at the next examination of the Stae Board, was allowed to compose his written examination, not with the candidates, and in the presence of the members of the State Board, but alone, in the private room of Dr. Huxmann, with the help of a so-called translator who was not even under oath.

There also were in this room dental books belonging to Huxmann, which Schlesinger, of course, consulted. Moreover, most of the answers were dictated to him by the translator, who did not even know English. For this work, the translator received $60.00 from Schlesinger, half of which he had to deliver up to Huxmann. According to Schlesinger's own statement, the examination cost him a few hundred dollars.

Mr. Grün, of Thorn (Germany), was in America for one term, part of which he spent with relatives in Leadville, and in New York (with a

brother or married sister), so that he was by no means a full term in Chicago. After the examination, Huxmann informed him that he (Grün) had failed, but that for $50.00 he could immediately pass another examination. Grün consented and paid $50.00, after which he received his new papers from Huxmann, who told him that he could work them out at home. Grün did so with the help of another Zahnarzt, and received his diploma from the German-American Dental College.

Rolle, Zahnarzt of Wiborg, Trinland, also failed in his examination with Huxmann, but, after payment of $25.00 or $30.00, was allowed to immediately pass another examination, after which he received his diploma.

Diplomas *honoris causa* were received by Laury, Berlin, and Zenner, Zahnarzt of Kasan, Russia.

(Signed) HERMAN SCHNITKER,
Chicago, Ill., June 1, 1899. 111 North Avenue, Chicago, Ill.

The following letter was sent to Dr. Smyser:

NEW YORK, June 7, 1899.

DR. J. H. SMYSER, Chicago, Ill.:

DEAR DOCTOR—I have received a communication from Dr. Paul Steinberg, in which he intimates that Dr. Huxmann, of the German-American College, is allowed by the Board of Examiners to act as interpreter for the students of his college when coming before the Board of Examiners, and upon his report of their examinations these men are given licenses to practice; that these men then go to Europe and advertise themselves as L. D. S., on the strength of having a license from the State of Illinois, by which means they seem to have the right to an extra degree.

Moreover, he charges that, in at least one case, a student was examined prior to graduation, and that you notified him that he would receive a license from the State Board of Examiners after completing his term at the German-American College. All of which would seem to indicate that this German-American College which has the repute of being an irregular school, has more than the usual influence with the State Board of Examiners.

I am, of course, loath to publish matter of this kind if there is any chance of doing injustice, but, at the same time, I feel it my duty to inquire into the case, in order to determine whether or not such irregularities could exist in a State Board of Examiners. I therefore feel that the proper course is to appeal to you direct for your version of the affair.

Will you kindly let me hear from you immediately, and oblige

Very truly yours, R. OTTOLENGUI.

DR. SMYSER'S REPLY.

CHICAGO, ILL., June 12, 1899.

R. OTTOLENGUI, M. D. S., New York:

DEAR DOCTOR—In reply to your letter of 7th inst., I will say that the letter is a base fabrication. This man Steinberg is an enemy of Dr. Huxmann who conducts the German-American Dental College, and presume to this is due this letter. The State Board of Illinois has nothing whatever to do with the above named institution, and students from that school are examined the same as any other students. Dr. Huxmann has done some of the translating in the presence of the Board, as it is extremely difficult to get any one who is competent to do this work. Dr. Huxmann, up to last March, has done this work for the Board since 1881. Unscrupulous men who do not know the facts in the case, like this man Steinberg, write as he has done, to do the Board an injury, and I will ask you to kindly send me an exact copy of his letter, as I think it is no more than right that such as he should be punished. J. H. SMYSER, Sec'y.

Interstate Comity in Dental Legislation.

By Rodrigues Ottolengui, M.D.S., New York.

Report as correspondent read at the annual meeting of New York State Dental Society, May, 1899, and here published by courteous permission of the Editor of the *Cosmos*.

Mr. President and Gentlemen:—In seeking a subject about which to correspond with members of the profession, in order to obtain a basis for the usual Correspondent's report, it has seemed to me that the one subject which, at present, interests the larger number of dentists throughout the country, and the one which is in most need of discussion and final settlement, is the question—"How best to unify the various State dental laws throughout the United States?"

The following is a copy of the letter which I sent to the secretaries of all the State Examining Boards in the country:

"My Dear Doctor:—As Correspondent of the New York State Society, it is my duty annually to present a report upon some feature of dental practice of vital interest to the whole profession. At the present time there seems nothing which will arouse more universal interest than a discussion of some method by which a uniform standard of education, or more especially of the granting of licenses could be arranged throughout the States.

I send you herewith a copy of Items of Interest for February, in which you will find a paper on the subject by Prof. Kirk, and also a discussion. I would ask you also to read my editorial.

Having done this, I would like you to send me, with permission to report it to my society, your own opinion, and, if possible, the opinion of

your entire board, if it could be obtained at a meeting, as to the feasibility of either of the following methods:

First, the one suggested in the editorial—That applicants for licenses should be required to present the papers upon which they were examined at college when obtaining their diploma. The State Board, upon being satisfied through these original examination papers, that the applicant is worthy, to give him a license to practice; and, secondly, to accept a license of this character granted in similar manner by any other State.

Second Proposition—For all State Boards, members of the National Association of Dental Examiners, to make use of identical examination papers, the same being prepared by a committee of the national body; licenses granted upon such examination papers to be interchangeable among the states represented in the National Association.

Is it not a fact that without appealing to the legislature of your state, your body is privileged to consider either of the above methods a satisfactory examination of the candidate? That is to say, is not the examination left to the determination of your Board? In which case, you will be at liberty to carry out either of the above propositions.

Lastly, in case neither of these would seem practical in your state, have you any alternate proposition whereby it would seem feasible, within an early period, to attain interchange of licenses between states?

The replies received to date are as follows:

District of Columbia. I have to state that, under the existing dental law of the District of Columbia, the Board of Dental Examiners is required to grant license to all graduates of all dental colleges which give a three year course of study, and to examine all other applicants, to test their qualification, both in theory and practice of dentistry before granting license. We have a new bill before Congress, and, if enacted, the Board will have more latitude than it now has, especially in respect to interchange of licenses between states.

In expressing my personal opinion upon the subject matter, will state, that I fully indorse the suggestions made in your editorial, believing them a proper solution of the question. C. W. APPLER,

Washington, D. C. President.

New Jersey. It is with the greatest pleasure that I accept your courteous invitation to give my views on Prof. Kirk's paper and the ideas advanced by yourself in the discussion of the same, and in your editorial in the February ITEMS OF INTEREST.

This subject has been one of grave consideration to me for a number of years, and I must allow that there are many alluring thoughts in both

of the plans suggested, but, unfortunately, I cannot but see the other side of the picture.

As to the first suggestion, it would have to be made absolutely sure that in no case could there be connivance between the college and the pupil. There may be dishonest colleges; another writer in the same issue of the ITEMS OF INTEREST suggests that there are, and that by the means you propose they will be forced to raise their standard. Admitting simply for the sake of argument that there may be some such dishonest colleges, what is the guarantee of the genuineness or originality of the answers to the college questions? If a professor in a college would offer to sell to a student up for graduation, the questions and answers of a State Board before whom he had to appear, might he not be willing to dispose of the answers to his own questions for the benefit of his own school, if he thought its reputation in danger? And after all, would this method be as thorough an "examination of the college" as by the present means? What is the difference whether the applicant is rejected on the college questions or the Board questions? Does it not reflect upon the institution in practically the same way?

As to the second suggestion, it is, in my opinion, theoretically most excellent, but practically impossible, as I do not believe that any means could be devised to prevent the questions from becoming marketable before some of the state examinations, owing to the differences in the dates of the college commencements, as well as the meetings of the State Boards.

Under the laws of New Jersey the manner of examining is left to the Board, so that in answer to your question on this subject I would say if our Board considered either of these suggestions practical, they could adopt it.

As to the last, of course we all have our ideas of Eutopia, but then along comes the other fellow to show they are not practical. I have my ideas on this subject; I have talked them and written them for years. In the first place, strange as it may sound, I am opposed to Examining Boards, not to the Boards themselves, understand, but the conditions which made such an imposition necessary. When a graduate receives his diploma, he should receive with it the right to practice anywhere under the Stars and Stripes, without let or hindrance from any one.

How can this be accomplished? Let the final examinations for graduation in all colleges be conducted by a National Board of Examiners, appointed by the government of the United States. A diploma issued under these circumstances would be universally received and the necessity of State Boards abolished. This may be a long way off, but, in my opinion, it is the only safe and practical solution of the problem, and with a com-

bined effort from the profession, colleges, and State Boards, backed by the National Associations, I believe it will succeed.

G. CARLETON BROWN, Secretary,
Elizabeth, N. J.

Wisconsin. I have read Dr. Kirk's paper, also discussions, together with your editorial, very carefully, and must say the more I read them, the more confused I become in regard to this burning question. It is a question to which I have given much study and thought, and yet cannot say that I have arrived at any definite conclusion.

This Board is a member of the National Association of Dental Examiners, and as such is in full sympathy with its work—that of raising the preliminary standard of colleges. To my mind that is the most important question at this moment. What dentistry needs today, above all things, is an educated body of men, and this can only be accomplished by insisting upon the colleges admitting only educated men. This they must do. The time has arrived for it. If they do not acquiesce willingly, then they must be either forced into line or else come to grief. This is the work of the National Association, and this is the issue it is pushing with all its might and main. This Board has taken a firm stand along this line, and is not recognizing diplomas from any college not on the recommended list. It has a bitter fight on its hands, but it is going to win. The National Association having accomplished this, it will then, doubtless, take hold of the question of a "uniform standard of granting licenses throughout the states."

As our law requires us to grant licenses to all reputable graduates, we would not give you any suggestions as to the best manner of solving this question, so far as experience is concerned. I must say, however, that your idea is worthy of much consideration, and I believe comes as near solving the question as any that has thus far been offered, although I most certainly dissent from your opinion as to "State Boards being a necessary evil."

W. H. CARSON, Sec'y,
Milwaukee, Wis.

Maryland. As there is considerable diversity of opinion as to the feasibility of the suggestions in your communication, I am authorized to use my own discretion in answering.

Your first suggestion is not perfectly clear to me. If you mean that a list of the questions used at the college examinations be submitted to the Board, that could give us no idea of an applicant's status, and I am sure the college faculties would not allow inspection of answers.

The second suggestion, to have identical examination papers, would necessitate the holding of simultaneous examinations by the different State Boards. If one Board meets for examination one week, and another Board meets the following week, applicants might be enabled in some way to obtain a list of the questions.

Our law allows us considerable latitude, and any of the suggestions could be adopted, if feasible.

I am very sorry that we cannot give this matter more attention, but I assure you that our Board is in entire sympathy with any project that will elevate the standard of dentistry. J. G. HEUISLER, Sec'y,

Baltimore, Md.

Pennsylvania. It was impossible, after your letter came into my hands, to get our Board together in time to obtain an expression of the body. To myself, personally, either of the two propositions would be satisfactory, except that the first would, I fear, remove the test very little away from the faculties of instruction. This, you may deem, an uncharitable view to take of it, but so long as men's wings have not sprouted, safeguards appear necessary.

The use of identical questions, if feasible, would, to my mind, appear the most impartial. It would involve simultaneous examinations in all the states, just as two weeks ago, we, in this state, held such in three separate places.

As I interpret our law, there would be no necessity for further legislation for the adoption of either proposition in our state.

H. GERHART, Sec'y,

Lewisburg, Pa.

Illinois. I am not in position to express the sentiments of the Board at this time, as our next Board meeting will convene on May 13.

To express an individual opinion at this time will say, that considerable opportunity is afforded for discussion on either of the propositions presented. Both of the methods seem to have merit, and no doubt can be discussed at the National meeting. J. H. SMYSER, Sec'y,

Chicago, Ill.

South Carolina. In reply to your communication will say that our Board does not meet again before the second Tuesday in July, and of course I can get no opinion of the Board.

Being a subscriber to ITEMS OF INTEREST, and holding the position I do on our Board, of course, I had already read carefully the articles referred to.

I would not object to your first suggestion, and do think, if carried out honestly, it would answer every purpose, but care should be taken that such papers be not tampered with by any one.

I have no objection to the second proposition, if the same care be taken to keep the questions well guarded by those who have the right to handle them.

It is a fact, according to my understanding, that our Board has discretionary power about examination, and could carry out the above propositions, if so desired.

You will notice that I seem particular about who should handle questions and examination papers. I have served on our State Board over ten years now, and have some experience about stolen questions and other underhand methods about examinations. Our Board is composed of graduates and has the reputation of being very strict, which may be the cause of my experience, and few members of the profession would believe the tricks employed by some to pass the examinations. Then, again, if some of the questions and answers I have seen in print, are samples of the examination papers where some of the colleges grant degrees, I should not like to trust those same professors too far. So I say, if honestly carried out, your plan would be very well, but unless all parties who handle the papers can be trusted fully, we may better stick to the old way.

J. R. THOMPSON, Sec'y,
Newberry, S. C.

Indiana. As our Board has not had a session since receiving your communication, what I have to say in reply represents my own ideas. But I know that these are shared in part by some of the other members of the Board.

Your first suggestion relative to applicants obtaining licenses upon the papers upon which their diplomas were granted is, I consider, a good one. At any rate it would afford a Board a better opportunity of knowing more of the qualifications of the applicant. To this, however, should be added a requirement of two days' practical work at the chair, and a license granted to applicant based on his standing in these. If the standing of State Dental Boards were uniform throughout the Union, then a license granted in our state should be respected in each and every state in the country. But such is not the case, for various reasons (in part, political) which cannot be discussed here. Even in a single state, the competency of the various Boards that come into power in a given number of years fluctuates.

Second suggestion of State Boards using identical examination questions prepared by a committee of the National Association of Dental

Examiners, is a good suggestion also, provided that Examining Boards meet at one and the same time throughout the country. This contemplates, of course, examining the product of our colleges. All this being equal, the better the material going into these institutions, the better the product.

If such a thing as having all dental colleges equally competent to give instruction to their students were possible, then the quality of the material entering into those institutions would alone need to be considered, and to a large extent we would be satisfied with the general output. But different motives govern different colleges. The same to a little less extent we find true with State Dental Boards.

It has been suggested that the Dental Boards allow the colleges to accept any and all applicants and graduate whom they choose. That all State Boards examine all applicants for dental licenses with questions prepared by a committee of the National Association of Dental Examiners. That the answers be sent from each state (members of the N. A. D. E.) to the committee having prepared the questions, they to examine and grade them, and on the committee's markings, the State Board to either refuse or grant registrative certificate or license.

Our last State Legislature passed laws giving the Board greater power, and enables us to examine any or all applicants for license. I will send you a copy of the laws.

M. A. MASON, Sec'y,
Ft. Wayne, Ind.

Louisiana. Your first proposition about the granting of licenses to an applicant upon his original college examination papers, seems to me to be a very fair and just one, provided the said papers could be had direct from the colleges in an untampered condition.

Your second proposition meets with my hearty approval, and I hope soon to see the day when such a rule will be in force.

Third, yes.

C. V. VIGNES, Sec'y,
New Orleans, La.

Maine. In regard to your inquiries concerning the granting and interchange of licenses, etc., I reply briefly as follows:

Our Board are unanimous in the opinion that some change is desirable, but they are not unanimous as to the practicability of any plan. We have had no meeting, but I have obtained an expression from all our members except one, and the second proposition, as stated in your letter, is regarded with favor, but one is not prepared to favor interchange of certificates.

I believe that it is the privilege of the Board to consider and adopt any of the propositions given.

I have not at present any proposition to make.

D. W. FELLOWS, Sec'y,
Portland, Me.

New Mexico.

Your first proposition, if adopted as a whole, would defeat the very object for which it is proposed. Without going into the merits of the first clause, and admitting the desirability of its intent, it would be null and void if the second clause was adopted, for this reason. Immediately upon the graduation of a student he would present his papers to the local Board, receive his license, and the same would be accepted by all other Boards as satisfactory.

In place of this proposition, it seems to us that the plan adopted by the National Association of Dental Examiners is far preferable. Let each State Board have jurisdiction over the local colleges, enforce rules similar to those insisted upon by the National Association, seek means to compel their observance, and when the school comes up to the standard thus established, let all other Boards accept the diploma as fully meeting their requirements, and issue a license without further delay.

This rule of the National Association is strictly enforced by this Board, which is given such power by our law, and is found in practice to be equitable and just. We have had numerous applications from graduates of colleges not recognized by the National Association, who, when notified that we could not give them a license under our law, have quietly departed without further trouble. The Board and the profession generally are much gratified at this provision of our law.

We are, therefore, of the opinion that proposition No. 1 is not feasible.

The second proposition meets with our hearty commendation. We will be glad to see such a provision adopted.

It is a fact that, without appeal to the legislature of our territory, either of the methods would be considered a satisfactory examination. The examination is left entirely to the discretion of the Board.

The suggestion given above seems to us, after six years' practical experience, to be nearer our ideas in regard to the interchange of licenses between the states than any method yet proposed.

D. W. MANLEY, Sec'y,
Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Kentucky.

In regard to dental legislation, it seems to me that some of us have never comprehended that dental laws are police regulations, intended for the protection of the people, and for that alone.

The state cares nothing about protecting dentists from competition, but it cares a great deal about protecting the public from incompetent dentists. Nor does the state care where or how a dentist gets his education, provided, only that he has sufficient training not to prove dangerous to the community. Accordingly, in Kentucky, the legislature has constructed the State Board of Dental Examiners, solely for the purpose of protecting the citizens against incompetent dentists.

The law provides that no one shall practice dentistry in this state without a certificate of qualification from said Board, and that the evidence by which he may establish that he possesses sufficient learning and skill to entitle him to a certificate, shall be either such a diploma as proves the possession of the necessary attainments, or in the absence of such a diploma, the standing of an examination by the applicant by which he gives evidence of this fitness.

In a word, no one can practice without a certificate from the Board, and this can be secured by means of a diploma or an examination, and in no other way.

The Board deals wholly with individuals, and passes on the qualification of each individual applicant, as evidenced by his diploma or examination.

The Board owes no duties to any college, as a college; though, if the college maintains a standard of sufficient grade, its graduates are entitled to certificates upon presenting and filing their diplomas; but this is true, because, and only because, the diplomas taken as evidence, satisfy the Board that the parties holding them possess such knowledge and skill that they can safely be turned loose on the public.

The Board has no authority to require the applicant to produce his examination papers, and no right to issue any certificate on them; nor has the Board any right to recognize "licenses" granted by other states. Of course, a law might be passed authorizing the Kentucky Board to recognize licenses granted by other states, but the Board should not do so without such a law.

The prevailing notion that dental legislation is enacted, 1st, for the protection of the dentist from competition, and, 2d, for the protection and benefit of the colleges, seems to me to be fraught with great danger to the cause of dental education. The protection of the people from incompetency is, and ought to be, the only ground on which such legislation can be maintained.

The great trouble in enacting satisfactory dental laws is the fact that a large majority of the people, both in and out of the calling, have no just conception of the scope of such laws.

We need education along these lines.

Of course, if a uniform law could be passed by all of the states, it would be very desirable; but, when we think of the difficulties in the way, it is an undertaking from which we may well shrink. We would first have to agree on what ideal law was, and then have it passed by all of the states exactly as agreed upon.

To any one who has had experience in trying to influence legislation, this proposition is absurd; the whole plan, to my mind, is simply impossible of accomplishment.

As to the proposition to have a National law regulating the whole matter, the advocates of such a plan evidently have no appreciation of the basis on which this government is formed. As mentioned in another part of this letter, all laws concerning the health of the people of the states come under the head of "police regulations;" these regulations begin and end with the state and cannot be made a matter of National law.

J. H. BALDWIN, Sec'y, Louisville, Ky.

Vermont. The idea of having an applicant for a license to practice dentistry in any state, present the examination papers upon which he was examined in college, is a good one, still this has its drawbacks, for it is a fact that quite a number of students are graduated each year, and from our best colleges, who are not qualified to practice dentistry. Where there are so many students, it is impossible for the college instructors to watch every student while doing the work required of him. For instance, a student (who has been a laboratory worker for several years) told me that during the past winter, he earned enough to pay nearly half of his expenses, helping fellow students do their depositing and practical cases required by the college. In mentioning this, I do not intend it as an attack on the colleges; far from that, but to show that some students manage to evade the requirements of the colleges.

2d—I cannot favor the idea of having an identical list of questions gotten up by a committee of any association, for the reason that the various State Boards hold their examinations at different times. An applicant might be refused a license in one state, and being familiar with the list of questions, could go to another state and pass the examination. I would favor such a committee making up examination papers that would be uniform, but different questions for each state. Here, in New Eng-

land, we have an Association of Dental Examiners, and we are trying to make our examinations uniform and to get uniform laws, that we may accept licenses from other states in place of an examination. I would like to see this done by all the states in the Union.

Our law says, "shall at its meetings, examine applicants, etc." If a license is given without examination we are discriminating. Law does not allow any one to discriminate. When the time comes for the recognition of licenses from other states, an amendment to the law, giving the Board authority to accept a license from another state in place of examination, can be easily obtained.

I hail the time when all states shall have such uniform laws and examinations, that the interchange of licenses may be brought about without doing an injustice to any one—colleges, examining boards, practitioners or patients.

GEORGE F. CHENEY, Sec'y,
St. Johnsbury, Vt.

Virginia. In regard to your first proposition, I believe that such a method of examining candidates for state license would tend to encourage some colleges to fraudulent acts, and would tie the hands of the examiners, so that it would be impossible to stop it. I do not mean to say that all, or even a large per cent of the colleges would take undue advantage of the examiners, but if even one did, that would be argument enough against the plans. This proposition carried to its last analysis is the same thing as registering diplomas straight out; the only difference is that one method has "red tape," and the other has not.

Your second proposition is a good one, but at this time I do not think it could be put into practice, without arousing political influences that would in some cases, injure the usefulness of the Board for years, and delay the interchange of licenses for some time to come. If this plan of examining candidates could be put in practice, we would not be far from interchange of licenses.

There is nothing in the Virginia law that would prevent a Board of Examiners from accepting either of the propositions mentioned.

I regret I cannot offer an alternate proposition to obtain interchange of licenses between states. An unrestricted interchange of licenses between states, in my opinion, would not be desirable. An interchange whereby worthy and competent men could practice anywhere in the United States is desirable, and I would be glad to see the consummation of the plan by which this could be brought about. It will require time, careful thought, and considerable work to perfect a plan whereby justice

can be done in the matter of interchange of licenses between states. Any plan should be thoroughly safeguarded against incompetent men.

H. W. CAMPBELL, Sec'y,
Suffolk, Va.

Massachusetts. Personally, I have been pleased to read the advice, opinions and suggestions in the journal at your request. At present, I could not indorse either of the propositions contained in your letter, as being at all feasible or practical.

Our Board has long been interested in this matter, but realize that the attainment of even a portion of what is desired, will require a long time—legislative changes are not easily obtained everywhere—then we would not think it possible that the dental schools would consent to have their examination papers taken all about the country to be examined by a State Board at any and all times whenever a man desired to locate in its territory. Do not also think it feasible, for a time, to have the examinations throughout the country on the same day, and the issuing of questions left to the National Association of Dental Examiners.

Our Board, two years ago, organized with the other New England Boards, an association for the purposes under discussion; have held profitable meetings, and attained as much, I think, as we could in our work here. I think it is in evidence we cannot attain the objects the two propositions aim at, only in a comparatively slow manner. It will require a long time. The schools must be of even excellence, the Boards of Examiners must have the same standard, provision must be provided to examine a candidate even if he has not attended a dental school, but I will not dwell longer upon my personal views.

G. E. MITCHELL, Sec'y,
Haverhill, Mass.

It is the unanimous opinion of the Massachusetts Board of Dental Examiners, that your first suggestion is impossible, for the reason that our twelve years' experience as an examining board has taught us that many of the young men who appear before us, recent graduates from reputable colleges, have utterly failed to pass our examinations, and are, in our opinion, incompetent to practice dentistry.

Your second proposition also seems to us very impracticable. It would necessitate examininations being held everywhere on the same day, which is not feasible, and would allow too much concentration of power in a few individuals.

Our New England Association of Dental Examiners was organized with a view to bringing about in New England, what seems to us the only practical way to interchange certificates, namely, a uniformity of

legislation and of uniform standard of qualification. Though we have been in existence but two years, I feel we have made respectable progress; already two laws have been changed to harmonize with Massachusetts, and when those who are a little lax come into line, we hope to form a perfect law for New England.

J. F. DOWSLEY, President,
Boston, Mass.

New York. Without going into discussion I would say, in regard to your first proposition, if all men were honest, if all were half as anxious to elevate the profession as they are to fill their pockets, this plan offers great inducements; but so long as the ungodly are in power, so long as colleges are run on a money-making basis, so long as there is a handsome surplus to divide among the favored few each year, I fear that plan would not be reliable.

Second Proposition—The first thing should be a uniform standard for matriculation, and this should not be a farce, but should be placed high enough, so that our eyes and ears will not be constantly shocked by bad chirography and worse grammar. If you could sit with an examining board for one session, and see the time consumed by trying to read writing that would make a Chinaman turn green with envy, grammar that is execrable, and spelling that gave you "bad spells," you would think and say at once, "For Heaven's sake, make the standard high enough that the people be not shocked by such display of ignorance."

This may seem overdrawn, but quite a percentage of that class come up every year, and it is needless to say they do not favor raising the standard:

For our state, we have settled upon a full High School course, as a prerequisite for matriculation. This insures a fair English education. Let the other states adopt the same standard, or one equally as good, and we are all on a par to start with.

Then let a committee be appointed by the National Association, National Board of Examiners, State Societies or by such power as may be deemed best, to formulate questions for examination. Let all State Boards adopt these questions and we have a uniform examination throughout the states, and a license in one state would be equally good in another. Of course, the applicant must have taken his degree in regular form.

I think the New York State Board of Dental Examiners, in connection with the Regents of the University, have full power without further legislation to adopt any method of examination which may be deemed best for the elevation of the dental profession.

FRANK FRENCH, Sec'y,
Rochester, N. Y.

West Virginia.

None of the members of the Board seemed to altogether approve of either the first or second proposition. There is such a different standard of qualification in different sections of the country, that it is very difficult to fix one to suit all. What might suit the standard of West Virginia, might be very far from the standard of New York or Boston. Colleges in different parts of the country are turning out handsomely finished, full fledged, first class dentists by the hundred—yes, by the thousands—with beautifully finished diplomas, on which very few are able to read anything except their own names. Many of them are as well qualified to practice dentistry as a hog to teach Latin. Some are bright boys, and, probably, good mechanics, so after some practice and experience may make good mechanical dentists.

We think as a Board, we have the right to determine the qualifications, and decide the question whether or not the candidates are qualified and fit to practice dentistry in our section of the country. A Board of Dental Examiners in Boston, and possibly in New York, might give their noses a celestial turn if a West Virginia Board should attempt to dictate to them what sort of an examination they should give their candidates.

It certainly would be a great convenience, if some universal law could be made, that would suit all the different states.

I have not gray matter enough to work out so important a question. It is a problem requiring the head of an experienced legislator.

We think we are all practical sort of men, and would be pleased to vote for anything that seems feasible, and would be glad to have some universal law that would make one examination do for all the different states.

CHAS. H. BARTLETT, President,
Parkersburg, W. Va.

North Carolina.

I am convinced that we need a uniform standard of education. Either of your plans would accomplish the purpose, but my preference would be for the second proposition.

I think that under the law of this state, the examination is left to the determination of our Board, and we would be at liberty to carry out either of the propositions.

R. H. JONES, Sec'y,
Winston, N. C.

Florida.

I am of the opinion that the second proposition suggested is the more desirable. I think it should not be limited though, to Boards which are members of

the National Association. I do not believe in making it compulsory for Boards of separate states to join the association. Think it is a step in the right direction.

R. A. SHINE, Sec'y, Tallahassee, Fla.

North Dakota. In regard to the proposition that State Boards should issue a license upon presentation of the diploma and the original college examination papers as guarantee of the knowledge of the applicant for examination, I would say, that it seems to me that this is almost an impossibility, and, in fact, would be so in many cases, especially the men who are now graduates and who cannot obtain papers written by them when in college, and even if they could secure their old individual examination papers, it is a question whether they would be of such character as to meet with the approval of the State Boards at the present time.

The suggestion that the State Boards agree to a definite examination by questions issued by a Committee of the National Board of Dental Examiners, I think is the only fair solution of the question—with this proviso; that where it is possible, the State Boards agree to the same date for the examination in the different states, say during January and July of each year, and within, if possible, the same week of these months, at which time all applicants for examination should be given the questions as issued from a Committee of the National Board of Dental Examiners. These questions to be furnished to the State Boards in such manner that no knowledge of them could be obtained by any person or persons who are to be examined. Papers written by parties examined under these conditions to become a part of the evidence of their ability as dental practitioners. These papers with a license from any State Board, issued under the above conditions, to be accepted by all other State Boards agreeing or being parties to this agreement. This arrangement would allow the practitioner to take the State Board examinations at any of these semi-annual meetings, and after having once passed any State Board on the National Board of Dental Examiners' questions, he would be eligible for license in any other state agreeing to this arrangement, no matter at what time he might desire to change his residence.

I think the greater part of the State Boards who are members of the National Board of Dental Examiners would permit of this arrangement, and to so change the date of their meetings by which we could have a uniform date, say, the second week in July and January, at which time all State Boards would hold a meeting, and each and every applicant for license would be compelled to have the same examination, thereby showing no favoritism of politics to any candidate.

It is almost impossible for State Boards to agree to accept the diplomas without question, from any college. Mistakes will happen, and men go through by some method or other, who are thoroughly unfit to practice dentistry or anything else.

The North Dakota Board finds the only successful rule, "To examine all candidates without discrimination as to college or other conditions." After some eight or ten years knowledge of the Boards' workings, I believe that this is the only one fair method at arriving at the definite understanding of the knowledge of the applicant for license. In fact, we have had to turn down men from some of the best colleges, while others from colleges of less note have proven in every way, so far as examination would demonstrate, much better prepared for practice.

H. L. STARLING, Sec'y, Fargo, N. D.

Washington. Our Board has had no meeting recently, and I cannot therefore send you the opinion of this Board regarding interchangeable licenses. My own judgment is that the second proposition would come nearest to being practical in its workings. Our law defines thirteen branches, including practical demonstration of ability, that the applicant must pass in.

If these were covered by an examination in another state, it might be legal to consider this a satisfactory examination, but of course, this is a point purely to be decided by the Board.

W. E. BURKHART, Sec'y, Tacoma, Wash.

Utah. In regard to suggestion No. 1, the idea of having applicants present to State Boards their original papers upon which they were examined is to me commendable, in so far that it assists the Dental Board, but the granting of a license upon said papers and the interchange of licenses granted upon such evidence of ability, would never meet with my approval.

Suggestion No. 2—State Board making use of identical examination papers; this is commendable, provided, however, they be the original papers and not made interchangeable; your method, however, would meet with no opposition from our legislative body because our laws are founded upon findings from the National Association of Dental Examiners.

I have no propositions to make in regard to making licenses interchangeable, for it will certainly meet with opposition here.

GEO. E. ELLERBECK, Sec'y,
Salt Lake City, Utah.

Thus, gentlemen, we have before us in concrete form, an expression of opinion from twenty-one Examining Boards, a summary of which

brings out some very important facts, not the least of which is the fear that dishonesty would militate against any proposition. Five states, apparently speaking from experience, suggest that dishonesty is traceable to the colleges direct, while some believe that the greatest care is requisite to prevent fraudulent possession of examination questions by applicants for license. If these accusations are well founded, it is a serious blot upon the honor of those in charge of our educational system. Further consideration of this feature is not requisite here, as we are merely seeking to achieve interchange of license, and if there be dishonesty, licenses should not be procurable even in one state.

To those who have believed that an interchange of license is a dream of Eutopia, the present series of letters must prove as encouraging, as they will be surprising. Two propositions were considered. The first provides that the candidate shall present his college examination papers which shall entitle him to a license, if satisfactory to the Examining Board. To this proposition four States assent, viz., District of Columbia, South Carolina, Indiana and Louisiana, while five others approve the scheme while doubting its possible enactment. These are Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Vermont and North Carolina. Maine, Washington and Florida merely express a preference for the alternate proposition, so that their vote is neither for nor against. Nine States, however, oppose the idea, these being New Jersey, New Mexico, Kentucky, Virginia, Massachusetts, New York, West Virginia, North Dakota and Utah.

There being nine States that oppose the proposition, and only nine in favor of it, the majority of which latter are doubtful, we may dismiss the idea as untenable, especially as its perfect operation would require the co-operation of the colleges, which could be procured, but only by force. Many of the objections which have been made can be answered, several being due to misapprehension of the scheme, but as we abandon the idea it is futile to waste time in further discussion.

The second proposition has met with such a reception that it merits our most studious and earnest consideration. Fourteen states approve the plan, only three being opposed. Of the others, two failed to approve merely because they preferred the first proposition; they would certainly accede to the second. Another, New Jersey, thinks the scheme excellent, but impracticable, while a fourth, Vermont, opposes only the feature of identical questions, and suggests a modification which could well be adopted. Thus three states oppose, Kentucky, Massachusetts and West Virginia, while seventeen indorse the idea, these being District of Columbia, New Jersey, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, Illinois, South Carolina, Indiana, Louisiana, New Mexico, Virginia, Vermont, New York, North Carolina, Florida, Washington, North Dakota and Utah.

The next matter of moment is the third question, whether the Examing Boards being willing to adopt the plan, have they the legal power? Every state admits that such power exists without further legislation, except Kentucky and Vermont, but we are informed that in Vermont, an amendment permitting interchange of license on an equable basis could be obtained.

The greatest difficulty in connection with all schemes heretofore proposed, has been the impossibility of obtaining further legislation throughout the States. I am exceedingly proud to have evolved a method, agreeable to the examiners of seventeen states, which can be put into operation without special legislation; a plan therefore within the scope of existing laws, and for that reason, worthy, I think, of adoption and trial for a time at least.

Certain objections have been brought out, but these can certainly be met. The greatest trouble seems to be that in order to avoid dishonesty, it would be requisite that the examinations should be held simultaneously. One correspondent says this is impossible, but he does not explain why. So far as the examiners are concerned, they certainly should be able to adopt any date agreeable to the majority of those coming into the agreement. The only difficulty which occurs to myself seems to be that students of some colleges would be compelled to lose some months perhaps after graduation before license could be obtained. But this only adds a brief period to their studentship at worst, and if this were thought to be inequitable such graduates might be permitted to practice undisturbed until the date of the first examination after their graduation. If the examinations were held semi-annually, this would be but a comparatively brief period.

The correspondent from Vermont objects to identical examination questions for all states, and suggests a single committee authorized to arrange the questions, but having power to promulgate separate questions for different states.

After due consideration of all the letters received I have the honor to suggest the following, as a solution of the vexed problem:

First—That a single National Committee shall arrange the examination questions for use by the State Examining Boards, and that license granted by one state, a party to this agreement, shall entitle the holder to practice in any of the states so agreeing.

Second—That identical questions shall be used by those states which could hold examinations simultaneously, but that the committee shall provide separate sets of questions, of equal grade, for such states as could not agree to simultaneous examinations.

Third—Each State Board, in addition to using the National Committee's questions for the theoretical examinations, should conduct a practical examination, the successful candidate, however, not being compelled to pass another such examination when presenting his license to another state.

Fourth—That each state, party to this agreement, shall pay a stated fee for its set of questions, the fee being higher where special questions are provided, the sum thus raised to be a remuneration to the committee for the arduous labors which would be entailed by this plan.

This ends my report, gentlemen, but before closing, I beg that the opportunity now afforded of inaugurating a movement which may bring us a solution of this problem, be not lost. May I ask the Society to take some definite action upon the proposition here expounded? If the final plan here set forth seems adequate, will the Society so vote, and so voting will they send a communication upon the subject to the National Association of Dental Examiners and to our National Association, urging a trial of the plan?

Bacteriology.

By Samuel A. Hopkins, M.D., D.D.S.

Read before the Central Dental Association of Northern New Jersey, May, 1899.

Bacteriology is a subject full of interest to me and of growing importance to every dentist. Tonight I shall try to explain some of its familiar phases and shall point out to you in a simple way the methods of growth and development which occur in the life of these interesting micro-organisms. I shall also attempt to show you some of the methods of conducting experiments in bacteriology. I hope that in this way I shall be able to clear up some of the mystery in which bacteriological work is usually cloaked, and to enable you to form a clear judgment of any work that may be presented to you hereafter.

Bacteria Belong to Vegetable Kingdom.

It is important that you should have a clear idea of the nature of bacteria, and one of the first things that I wish to impress upon your minds is that bacteria belong to the vegetable kingdom. I would suggest that you give up the "bug-theory" and think of this subject, if you will, as microscopical botany. In this way you will be able to comprehend better the methods of growth and development which I shall show you as I proceed.

Also give up the idea that bacteria necessarily mean disease. If analogy counts for anything, bacteria are not unlike plants of the higher vegetable world. We have poisonous plants of the higher order which create disease and produce death; we have bacteria that will do the same. There are useless weeds, or at any rate useless so far as our human knowledge goes, and we have many common forms of bacteria that grow almost everywhere but are of no apparent use, except to make the work of the experimenter more difficult. But by far the great majority of plants in the higher vegetable world serve important purposes in life, and we are gradually finding out that the same may be true of bacteria.

Size and Shape of Bacteria.

As to the size and shape of these micro-organisms: the micromillimeter is a measure of one twenty-five thousandth of an inch, and if you will keep this in mind you will have an accurate idea of the size of a bacterium. Some are larger, it is true, and the rod-forms frequently stretch out into two, three, four, or even more micromillimeters in length; but many of the forms are much smaller and the diameters are frequently less than one-half a micromillimeter. If you divide an inch into twenty-five parts, one twenty-fifth is appreciable to the naked eye, but is not a very wide space. If you keep in mind that it would take a chain of one thousand average size bacteria to stretch across that space, you will get a pretty accurate idea of the average size of these micro-organisms.

As to the shape of bacteria: The two most important classes for you to remember are the bacillus or rod-form and the coccus, or round form. These are the two divisions that are constantly spoken of. The spirilla are curved rods. The coccus forms are found arranged singly, in pairs, in groups and in chains. When in pairs we speak of the diplococcus form, when in groups we speak of the staphylococcus forms, when in chains we speak of the streptococcus. To the streptococcus forms are ascribed many malignant effects, and they are always more or less under suspicion.

These forms grow by two distinct methods, by division or fissation, and by the production of spores which are bacteria in a condition of arrested development. The process of division or fissation is carried on with great rapidity, and it is estimated that a single cell may, on a suitable media, produce in twenty-four hours over sixteen millions, and in forty-eight hours the number is estimated at two-hundred and eighty-one billion five-hundred million. Fortunately for our peace of mind, conditions are rarely favorable to this rapid growth.

The method of spore formation is not well understood, is less com-

mon, and is confined, except in one or two possible instances, to the bacillus or rod-forms. These spores are of interest from a hygienic point of view as they are extremely resistant to heat, to chemical action and also to stains. Because of this fact the presence of spores makes the process of sterilization difficult.

This brings to mind a practical point in regard to the transplantation of teeth. The sterilization of teeth is so difficult, and spore formation is so apt to take place that in transplanting a tooth the usual antiseptics cannot be trusted to completely destroy the micro-organisms. If teeth are to be transplanted at all they should be subjected to a long process of sterilization by heat.

Besides the bacillus and coccus forms to which I have alluded, there are also leptothrix forms which are of interest to dentists from the fact of their being so often present in the human mouth. They probably belong to a higher order than bacteria, although they must be studied by bacteriological methods. They stretch out into long thread-like forms; these threads are sometimes continuous, but are frequently disconnected or broken. There has been a great deal of speculation in regard to these leptothrix forms and our dental journals have published many clever theories as to the character and functions of these organisms. Our knowledge of this subject, however, is extremely limited, for the very good reason that no one has yet been able to cultivate these forms in pure cultures; and until this can be accomplished we shall never know definitely what part they play in the human mouth. Dr. Simon Flexner, Professor of Pathology in the University of Pennsylvania, has recently succeeded in cultivating a leptothrix form found in the inflamed uterus of a pregnant rabbit, and his work has been so careful and thorough that it may lead to the cultivation of similar organisms found in the mouth. But until such work is done, all the information that we gain from cover glass preparations must be looked upon as largely speculative.

Effects of Bacteria.

Let us briefly note the part which bacteria play in life. Many are known to bring about disease, and every day the guilt of others is being brought home to them. But sufficient attention has not been given to the beneficent influence of bacteria and their wonderful utilitarian purposes. It is perhaps not going too far to say that we should starve to death were it not for the kindly offices these organisms perform. One of the important offices that bacteria fill is found in the work of the nitrifying bacteria which live in the soil. These have the important work of laying hold of and adapting to our needs the very nitrogen of the air, which, in order that we may live, we must consume and

assimilate. Without the aid of our infinitesimal allies we could not utilize for any life-giving purpose the ocean of nitrogen in which we live. These nitrifying bacteria take up waste products of the barn-yard, dead leaves and other vegetable matter, and convert them into food suitable for the life of the plant. They convert nitrogenous elements into ammonia, nitrous and nitric acids, carbolic acid and water. The organic forms of nitrogen, phosphorous, carbon and hydrogen undergo a process of mineralization during which they are oxidized or mineralized, and become nitric (HNO_3), phosphoric acid (H_3PO_4), carbonic acid (CO_2), and water (H_2O).

The farmer when he ploughs his field and harrows it and pulverizes the soil, may be unconscious of the work that he is doing, but he is nevertheless preparing a better culture media for the growth of these beneficent micro-organisms. He loosens the soil so that light and heat and air may penetrate and serve for the development of the nitrifying bacteria. The old-fashioned expression "sterile soil" may be looked upon as strictly scientific, for sterile soil merely means land that is sterile because of the absence of bacteria.

Other forms which play a useful part in life are those which cause or force the various processes of fermentation. This is so well recognized now that bacteria have actually become an article of commerce, and are in demand to stimulate the production of cream and butter.

It is not improbable that certain forms play an important part in the stimulation of white blood corpuscles, or leucocytes; and it is probable that the well known freedom of the mouth from septic influences may depend upon this very action.

Methods of Study.

Let us now see how bacteria can be studied. If you were to make a cover-glass preparation from the mouth, and after staining it subject it to microscopical examination, a large number of organisms would be seen, so many in fact, that very little satisfaction would be gained if you confined yourself to this method alone. It is therefore necessary to make cultures, and in order to get cultures pure we have to resort to one of the various plate methods. One of the simplest of these is to employ the blood serum plate and with a needle, which has been touched to the infected part, we draw lines over the surface of the blood serum. On the first line are deposited a great many bacteria and there will be an abundant growth. On the second line there will be fewer, and so on to the end till colonies of single forms will be seen; these can then be transferred to tubes and preserved for an indefinite time.

There are many varieties of media; bouillon or beef extract with various additions is a good liquid media, and is also the basis of some of the solid culture media. That which has seemed to me most appropriate to the mouth forms is blood serum, and I have preferred the plain blood serum to that prepared after the Löffler method. It is, however, necessary to use a great variety of media, as many forms refuse to grow on blood serum. Bacteria are really sub-microscopic, and it is necessary to resort to this method of cultivation and to watch the growths upon various media in order to differentiate between different forms.

In the work that I am now engaged upon, the accompanying table is used in the examination of each form that is isolated from the mouth

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..... 18....

BACTERIOLOGICAL RECORD,

by

Name.

Obtained from .....

Shape and Arrangement .....

Motility .....

Growth Plates .....

On Gelatine Tubes .....

Plates .....

On Agar-Agar Tubes .....

On Potato .....

On Blood-Serum .....

On Egg .....

In Bouillon .....

In Milk .....

Best Temperature .....

Rapidity of Growth .....

Spore Production .....

Need of Oxygen .....

Gas Production .....

Action on Gelatine .....

Staining Reaction and Color Production.....

Pathogenesis .....

Every bacterium that is studied and classified should have its history written and should be studied in all its various details. If after having completed the study you suspect that it is the cause of certain disease

conditions, experiments are conducted according to the laws laid down by Koch. These are three: First, the organism must be constantly present in the disease, and this is determined by making a great many cover-glass preparations and many cultures. The second law is that pure cultures must be made of the organism. The third law is that by these pure cultures the disease must be produced; that is to say, susceptible animals are inoculated with the pure culture of the bacterium to see if the pathological changes which it causes correspond to those which take place in the original disease. If these laws are fulfilled, we can be pretty sure that we have found the cause of the disease.

In closing I would beg you to remember that bacteria when stained have a very definite outline and cannot be mistaken when seen under the microscope or in micro-photographs, and when you fail to find these forms standing out sharply you may well doubt their presence. Also remember that they must be cultivated to be studied, and that the microscope cannot be depended upon. Also remember that the laws of Koch must be fulfilled before you accept any micro-organism as the cause of a disease. Finally, remember that our knowledge of the leptothrix forms is insufficient to ascribe to them any definite action.

Central Dental Association of Northern New Jersey.

May Meeting.

The regular meeting of the Central Dental Association of Northern New Jersey was held at Davis's Parlors, Newark, N. J., on the evening of Monday, May 15, 1899. Dr. Samuel A. Hopkins read the paper of the evening, and the following discussion ensued:

Discussion.

Dr. Kimball. There is a question which came to my mind; when Dr. Hopkins refers to inoculating a guinea pig, does he take one of these tubes?

Dr. Hopkins. We usually make a bouillon culture, cultivated in a fluid media and make a hypodermic injection, the quantity to start with being immaterial, and then to test its virulency we reduce the quantity. Ordinarily when we start with a guinea pig, the ordinary quantity would be 1 cc.; if we found that killed the guinea pig pretty promptly, within forty-eight hours, we would try it with half the quantity, and reduce it down to see how virulent the culture was. Sometimes the direct application of the baccilus taken from a solid culture media and put under the skin is used, but it is not as effective or as free from danger from contamination as when the sterile needle is used with a fluid media.

Dr. Kimball. How do you test the acid or alkaline condition?

Dr. Hopkins. We cultivate it in milk; if it will grow in milk it will grow in litmus milk, and that gives a reaction in the color. In my own work I have some sixty odd tubes containing teeth put in in a sterile condition and then inoculated with these different forms, to show what the action is on the teeth, and in those forms the test of its alkalinity is made usually with litmus once a week, the whole room being sterilized before the tubes are opened.

Dr. Luckey. Bacteriology is a subject which does not form part of the daily work of the practicing dentist; it is reserved only to those who have the disposition and time to devote to it. But it is a study upon which our profession is built, and its future life probably depends entirely upon this same study of bacteriology.

A paper such as we have heard tonight seems to be one of those things which does not easily admit of discussion amongst ordinary dentists, but it has been a delight to sit and listen to a dissertation on these same old bugs that we were made familiar with in our college days and some good old names that we made so much sport of and thought so little about, but which sank so deeply into our minds and which we have tried to forget, or have forgotten, if we didn't try, but which have been brought before us tonight and put in new forms and new dresses and will carry us to another decade, until either this investigator or another will bring us to a higher point in the science, and at the same time perhaps establish the status of caries, as related to the subject of bacteriology, which, as I view the subject, is the necessary point to us, and will carry us along until perhaps the time may come when we as dentists may sit in our comfortable and beautiful offices and dictate to our patrons the means of saving their teeth through the prophylactic care of the mouth, based entirely upon bacteriological studies.

Dr. Ottolengui. Mr. President, I was surprised to hear Dr. Luckey speak of these minute organisms as bugs, especially after the essayist had asked us, please not to call them bugs any more.

It reminds me of a letter I received this morning from a gentleman in Philadelphia, speaking on the general subject of the way in which new ideas are received by the dental profession; that is, that they are usually ridiculed. He narrates that he remembers when Miller first spoke before a dental society on the subject of the importance of bacterial research, and that the gentleman who opened the discussion spoke of the bugs and the humbugs and the humbuggery until he was so amused that he was obliged to hand his paper to the secretary to be read. Yet today we know there is no humbuggery, because there are no bugs.

I was pleased to hear the essayist start out by telling us that they are vegetable, and I hope we may be able to remember that in the future.

So far as discussing the paper is concerned, I do not think I could do better than by trying to get a little more enlightenment on one or two points. First, the essayist speaks of the difficulty of sterilizing teeth; that even after they have been steamed for a number of hours

during a number of successive days, it was still imperfectly done, and he spoke of the possible danger of implantation of teeth from one mouth to another. I have no doubt that cultures have been and can be obtained in the way he suggests. The peculiar thing about the scientific aspect of bacteriology is that it does not seem to fit in exactly with practical experience. One man tells us he never uses an instrument the second time without having it sterilized, and tells us what he fears would happen if he did not sterilize his instruments, while another man uses the same instruments in all mouths without even washing them, and he does not transmit anything. In this relation it is a singular fact, considering the difficulty of rendering teeth sterile, that so much implantation has been done, and yet we have not in the literature a single record, known to me, of disease transmitted by implantation. That is one of the anomalies that sometimes makes me doubt the real practical necessity of so much sterilization, and I wonder sometimes if the guilt which has been brought home to these bacteria has not sometimes been ascribed to the innocent, and whether a great many of these bacteria against which we attempt to arm ourselves are not beneficent rather than pathogenic.

When the essayist comes to close his paper, I would like him to say a little more on this subject, and how the fact can be explained that without more care there should be so little transmission of disease, and secondly, why it is that so much sterilization of instruments is required, when we are dealing with diseases which are said to be non-infectious.

Dr. Bogue. I would like to say a word before Dr. Hopkins closes. The gentlemen who transmit disease do not publish such facts as a rule. In proof of that, while it is hardly fair to mention a man who is absent, nor to mention the name of a man who is dead, yet I will say that Dr. Evans stated in my hearing and in the hearing of half a dozen others, that this transplantation of teeth was begun and ended in his office many years ago; that the putting in of artificial teeth, gold screws, etc., had been practiced by him as well as transplantation, but had been abandoned because of the dreadful results that he did not dare to speak of.

I think Dr. Ottolengui has been entirely too gentle towards the essayist of the evening. The essayist is sunken in the most profound ignorance concerning the sterilization of teeth. If he had only been here in this room a few months ago and heard how all the teeth in the mouth may be so sterilized that decay could never again progress, he would have known a heap more than he knows tonight. (Laughter.)

Dr. Ottolengui. I am surprised to see that ignorance can be so widespread! The gentleman who just sat down failed to grasp the idea of the other gentleman who spoke of the sterilization of teeth, as he called it; that gentleman did not say the teeth could be sterilized so that disease would never come back, but rather that the teeth would be sterilized so that the patient would have to come back about every three months. (Laughter.) I remember that that was a peculiar feature of his sterilization, because it made what might be called by lawyers, a fee in perpetuity.

Concerning the last speaker's other remarks, the implantation of gold screws seems to me hardly to be within the line of what we were speaking about, and I doubt very much if the bad results due to the implantation of screws had anything to do with the transmission of diseases such as we have been discussing. Nature rebels against foreign objects, even when they are of gold, and I can easily imagine a whole kindergarten of bacteria rushing forward to get rid of the screws, whereas the screw itself might have been thoroughly sterile when implanted. A different thing occurs in the implantation of teeth. They are tolerated very frequently, and within my own experience, and I have performed over a hundred implantations, the most serious result I have ever had has been that the teeth did not unite with the jaw, but the patient has never suffered from any transmission of disease. In regard to those gentlemen who do not report their failures, two things are to be said; first, that they are not fit to be in the profession, and secondly, that their failures are generally reported for them by the persons who suffer.

Dr. Hopkins. In regard to the matter that Dr. Ottolengui suggested, why disease is not transmitted oftener, I admit that I have possibly exaggerated the danger of infection; I know of very little injury that has come from it, and yet I think the operation should be attended with a great deal of caution. I only want to suggest that every precaution should be used, that sterilizing methods should be carried out as far as possible, because it seems to me (and that will answer the other question of why we sterilize instruments) we should take every safeguard possible. We cannot of course sterilize the atmosphere of our office and the tissues of the mouth and work under absolutely aseptic conditions, but what we can do, and what our patients are entitled to, is that we shall not transmit any germ, whether it be pathogenic or otherwise; that we shall not transmit anything, in the shape of bacteria, from one mouth to another; therefore it is our duty to sterilize instruments, and our patients have a right to expect it; if they have been used on one person, they ought not to be put in another mouth without

proper sterilization. While is it true that out of the thirty-nine forms that I have in pure cultures, there are only three that have marked pathogenic properties, yet, because of those three it seems to me it is wise to take every precaution for sterilization.

I do not want to discuss the matter of the advisability of transplanting teeth, but I wanted to urge the duty of taking every precaution to sterilize in that operation.

One reason why diseases are not transmitted in the mouth more frequently than they are is undoubtedly due to the condition that I have already called attention to, the presence of leucocytes; the lymphatic glands are crowded in the human mouth, and in no part of the body are there so many leucocytes ready to come into action and prevent septicemia and other forms of infection as in the human mouth. We all know perfectly well that if we were to make in the foot or hand or arm such a wound as is made in the extraction of half a dozen teeth, death from blood poisoning would probably result, unless antiseptic treatment was resorted to and the wound kept thoroughly cleansed. Such precautions as that we do not take in the mouth because there exists that condition which nature has provided to prevent septicemia.

On motion of Dr. Osmun, a vote of thanks was then extended to Dr. Hopkins and the paper was passed.

The secretary then read a communication from the Second District Dental Society of New York, inviting this association to meet with them at their January meeting next year.

On motion the invitation was accepted with thanks.

The secretary then read the following report from the chraiman of the Committee on Patent Legislation in Congress.

Dr. Ottolengui's Report on Patent Legislation in Congress.

Central Dental Association of Northern New Jersey,

GENTLEMEN:—As chairman of the Committee on Patent Legislation in Congress, I regret that I am obliged to report progress only. We succeeded in having the bill introduced into both Houses, and referred to committees. The Senate Committee granted us a hearing, and I appeared before them accompanied by counsel. Subsequently, we were unofficially informed that the Senate Committee were not opposed to the bill, but would be unwilling to report it until it had first been reported from the House.

We were unfortunate in not being able to have the bill introduced into the House until very late in the session, which, it will be remembered,

was prolonged in consequence of the Spanish war. After it was introduced and reached the committee, we found it impossible to get a hearing before that committee, because of the difficulty of obtaining a quorum; nearly all of the members of the Patent Committee being also connected with other committees of greater importance in connection with military operations.

At the beginning of the last session of Congress, I had an interview with the Honorable John Murray Mitchell, who had introduced the bill into the House, and he promised to do everything in his power to have the bill reported. This, however, proved to be impossible, because of the shortness of the session, and the urgency of many measures in connection with the war. Following is a copy of a letter received from Mr. Mitchell, which explains the position:

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 7, 1899.

R. Ottolengui, M. D. S.,

MY DEAR SIR:—I have kept your note in view as a reminder to inform you what chances there might be of reaching action on your bill. There has been so much House legislation (during the past three weeks, since I received your letter), instead of committee work, that I now feel safe in saying that there is but little or no chance for action this session. It seems quite impossible to get a quorum, not more than one or two appearing on committee days. War, revenue and treaties have the right of way, seemingly.

I am sorry indeed that I could not have been more useful to you and your important subject, for which you have labored so earnestly.

Very truly yours,
JOHN MURRAY MITCHELL.

It may not be inadvisable to make a statement of the sums of money received towards the fund for urging this matter in Congress. Various societies have made donations as follows:

New York State Dental Society	$50.00
Illinois State Dental Association	50.00
Central Dental Association of Northern New Jersey	25.00
Pennsylvania State Dental Association	25.00
Indiana State Dental Association	15.00
Minnesota State Dental Association	10.00
California State Dental Association	10.00
South Dakota State Dental Association	5.00

making a total to date of $190.00; $202.50 has been paid to the patent solicitors, in accordance with the following statement:

WASHINGTON, D. C., July 5, 1898.

Dr. R. Ottolengui,
New York.

Statement of Account.

1898.	*Dr.*	*Cr.*
Feb. 12.—To search of Patent Office records and copies of patents	$35.00	
Feb. 12.—By check for same		$35.00
Feb. 19.—To preparing Dental Bill	50.00	
March 17.—To expenses of N. Y. trip	17.50	
March 19.—By check on account		50.00
April 23.—By check on account		17.50
June 21.—By check on account		50.00
June 30.—To services before Senate and House Committees	100.00	
By balance due		50.00
	$202.50	$202.50

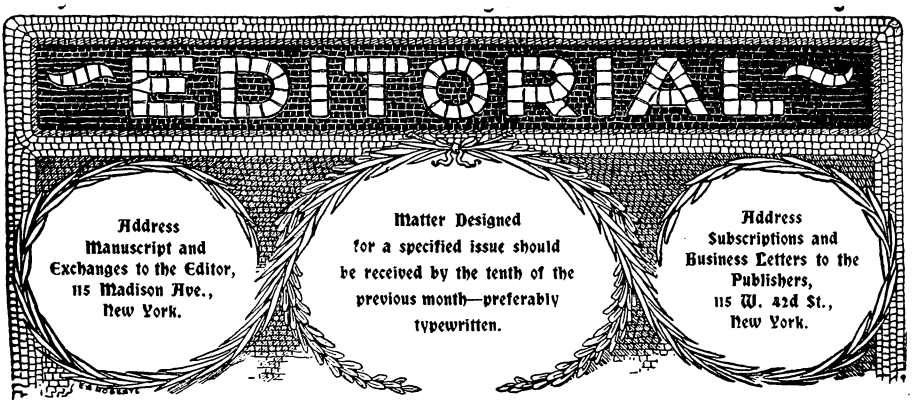
In addition to this I paid out $30.00, as expenses incurred in two trips to Washington. Considerable expense was saved through the courtesy of the Consolidated Dental Manufacturing Company, who printed the original petitions for us without cost, and mailed the same to ten thousand members of the profession.

It will be seen by the above statement that the actual cash expenditures thus far have exceeded the receipts by $47.50, but your committee is, at the moment, out of pocket for a larger sum than this, as there still remains a balance in the hands of our New York State Society treasurer. Your committee recommends a pursuance of this matter at the next Congress, and arrangements have already been made to have the bill introduced and pushed, a prominent Congressman having agreed to care for the bill in the House.

Your committee also desires to call your attention to an adverse resolution which was introduced and passed at the last meeting of the National Association. This resolution contained statements that were not facts, and the persons voting for it were, undoubtedly, misled. Your committee would therefore recommend that this society send a request through its secretary to the National Association, asking for the endorsement and support of this movement by the passage of a favorable resolution at the coming session. Respectfully submitted,

R. OTTOLENGUI.

On motion the report was accepted, and the secretary authorized to send the notices referred to therein.



Plan for Dentists in the Army Suggested by Major L. M. Maus, U. S. A.

Many letters have reached this office requesting that some editorial encouragement should be given to the scheme to have dentists in the United States Army. Thus far we have expressed no opinion, it being our policy not to give utterance without knowledge.

Those who first fostered the idea proceeded apparently of their own volition, neither seeking nor taking advice, with the apparent result that an ill considered bill was introduced into Congress and failed. When the bill was doomed, and adjournment was almost at hand, this magazine and presumably others was urged to give assistance. It seemed futile to attempt anything at that time, and we did not respond.

As this matter will undoubtedly be discussed at our approaching National meeting, it seemed fitting that we should investigate and learn if possible whether the need of dentists in the army be real or imaginary. A visit was made to Fort Hamilton in this harbor, and permission was obtained to go through the hospital wards and examine the teeth of the men. It had been intended to make and publish accurate charts of the mouths of perhaps a hundred men, but it was quickly discovered that nothing would be gained by this laborious work.

It was not an easy task to explain to the men the object of the inspection, and the majority of them, to put it mildly, were lukewarm, while not a few declined to be examined, impatiently declaring that they did not need a dentist. Twenty-five or thirty mouths were examined, however,

and it is fair to assume that the following deductions are true, and would obtain after a more lengthy inspection.

1. The men are required to have practically sound teeth when entering the service.

2. No means are furnished for obtaining dental service, except extraction of teeth, which is performed by the hospital stewards.

3. The teeth of the men decay and are neglected until pulp exposure or abscess suggests extraction.

Of the mouths examined an average of six cavities to each man was found, while only six fillings altogether were present, of which two were handsome gold fillings recently done by a Brooklyn dentist, who, however, had been compelled to remove the four upper incisors, the fillings being in the cuspids, the only two of the six front teeth which the dentist had been able to save.

A number of the more intelligent men declared that in actual service in Cuba men suffered intolerably from toothache, and the following story was told by one man and vouched for by five of his companions:

Corporal Campbell, Company M, First Infantry, suffered greatly with toothache and obtained leave to visit a neighboring Cuban dentist. This man attempted to extract the tooth, but did not fully succeed, the soldier returning to camp in great agony. On the following day he was found dead, from an overdose of morphine. The officers supposed that he had taken morphine to relieve his pain and through ignorance swallowed too large a dose, while the men declared that he committed suicide rather than suffer longer.

Dentists Employed by Major L. M. Maus.

The most interesting facts elicited at this and subsequent visits, were brought out by interviewing Major L. M. Maus, late Lieut-Colonel and Chief Surgeon U. S. Volunteers with Major General Fitzhugh Lee. He discovered that his men suffered greatly with their teeth, and finally decided to care for them in this respect. He hired an office, and engaged two dentists, whom he found among his enlisted men, and began systematically rendering dental services. The experiment was successful and was carried out in camps at Jacksonville, Savannah and at Havana. The equipment of the two dentists was procured at a cost of five hunderd dollars, and was moved from camp to camp. All opera-

tions were free except gold fillings, which were charged actually at cost, varying from twenty-five to fifty cents. It is an evidence that this service was appreciated when we learn that on January 1, 1899, the engagement books of the dentists were filled up to April first. A complete record of the dental operations of this, the first dental office ever maintained in a military camp, especially in time of war, is to be found on file in Washington, and would prove a strong argument with Senators and Congressmen in support of a new bill.

It would seem that the effort during the last Congress failed partly because the plan outlined was too elaborate; it should be sufficient to have the experiment begun on a moderate scale. The following plan, outlined by Major Maus, seems an excellent one and if supported by the dentists, would probably receive more encouragement from army men than the one which failed:

Plan Suggested by Major Maus.

There being about fifteen military departments, appoint one senior and two junior dentists to each department, these men to be assigned to various posts within a department as their services might be required. The senior dentists to have the rank of Captain, and the juniors the rank of Lieutenants. In addition to these forty-five dentists there should be permanently stationed at Washington one dentist with the rank of Lieut.-Colonel, and one with the rank of Major; the functions of these two officers would be supervisory and executive rather than practical. The pay of dentists to be the pay and emoluments of officers of corresponding rank in the mounted service.

An important feature which would require serious consideration would be the means of appointing these dentists. Who should examine into their fitness for their positions? The suggestion that a Board of Examiners be appointed by the President of the United States from nominees made by the National Dental Associations is pregnant with possibilities, not the least of which might be the utilization of the same Board for the granting of a license to practice in any state in the Union.

At all events, when we remember that Major Maus of his own volition actually inaugurated the movement to have dental services in the army, and, furthermore, to his great credit be it said, carried the idea into

practical and successful operation in large military camps during the progress of actual war, it would seem that his plan here outlined is worthy of the most serious consideration by our National Dental Association.

Comments on the Letters from the Deans.

We publish this month a symposium upon the subject of college advertising which will prove of intense interest to all classes in the profession, whether teachers or practitioners. The Deans of some of the most prominent colleges have favored us with their views, and it is to be noted as a significant and pleasing fact that, in general, they express themselves in opposition to offensive and conspicuous advertising of the college clinic.

The letter from Prof. Dunbar, of the University of California, is simply magnificent, and should be counted a classical contribution to the literature of the subject of ethics. There is no circumlocution, no quibbling, no ifs, ands nor buts. What he says is to the point, direct and unmistakable, and he has undoubtedly formulated views which will be indorsed by the profession, and which if followed by all the colleges would finally and forever settle this vexed question and prove of lasting credit to our educational institutions. At the outset of his communication he truly says:

"If it is unethical for a graduate to advertise in the manner quoted, it is certainly more reprehensible in his sponsors, and no amount of sophistical argument would ever convince a right-thinking profession to the contrary."

How To Obtain Patients Without Advertising.

In reply to our editorial suggestion that colleges should render services to the really poor and deserving without charge, Prof. Patterson, of the Kansas City Dental College, says:

"Allow me to say, Mr. Editor, that I doubt if you have had much experience along that line, or you would know that you cannot get the 'really poor' to come to the infirmary, at least I could not, and I tried faithfully. There are reasons for this, such as poor

clothes, shame at needing charity, etc., etc. But I found upon close inquiry that the most potent reason is that the really poor cannot give the time necessary to come to the infirmary when they can be waited on."

There is of course much truth in Prof. Patterson's claims, yet the poor are reached in all large cities without shame. The dispensing of charity has been studied carefully, and it has been proven that charity which is too publicly bestowed debases them that will accept of it, and thus works evil instead of good. Therefore in all large cities (and most of the dental colleges are in the larger towns), charity is an organized branch of the municipal government. Prof. Patterson says he wishes that the really poor would attend his clinics. To him and to other college professors similarly minded, the following plan may be of interest. It would seem that at least some of the really poor could be reached by either or both of these means. First, furnish the charity officers of the city with tickets which would entitle the bearer to free services at the college clinic. Second, arrange with the management of the city institutions to give free dental services to the inmates.

Of all such public institutions none offers a better field than the orphan houses. The care of children's teeth would be fine schooling for the students. Among the orphans we find patients who would be deterred by none of the excuses mentioned by Prof. Patterson. They would not have trouble about their "poor clothes," since orphans are uniformly clad; they would not remain away because "ashamed," as they would go where their superiors take them; and they would not lack for time to attend. By all means let the college clinics be recruited from the orphan houses to begin with. There is abundance of work to be done. One evening spent in an orphanage in this city afforded opportunity for extracting two hundred temporary teeth from the mouths of eighty-nine children, and by actual count there were found over one hundred and fifty sixth year molars requiring filling.

Dental Journals as Blackmailers.

In discussing the subject of college advertising two of the Deans have chosen to drift away from the subject in order to give the dental journals a little adverse criticism. Prof. Barrett, of the Buffalo College, says:

"As for the comprehensive advertisement of colleges in dental journals, that has usually been at the urgent solicitation of their editors or publishers. It has been held the duty of the schools to sustain our literature in this manner, for it is well known that the subscription list is usually inadequate for that purpose. In some cases this solicitation has been very importunate. I know of one college that has expended many postage stamps in declining compliance with demands, sometimes made with the covert intimation that compliance will be necessary if the school is to expect the good will of the journal."

This statement by Prof. Barrett is both serious and amusing. In plain English what he charges is blackmail. Why not name the journals that are guilty? The profession should be rid of such journals as soon as possible, that kind of conduct being more reprehensible than the advertising of college clinics, the present topic of discussion.

The amusing side is seen from the following view. In mentioning that the journals are not adequately sustained by their subscription lists, the intimation is that the college aids the journal because of the *profit* obtained from the advertisement inserted. Let us inquire into this for a moment, since there is nothing to be hidden, and the truth can hurt no one. What does the advertisement cost the publisher? The price of composition is presumably the same to all magazines, but the final cost of a page advertisement depends upon the size of the edition printed, the paper in an edition of one thousand being manifestly less expensive than that consumed in an edition of fifteen thousand. Thus if the college should advertise in several dental journals, paying the same rate per page to all, that magazine having the *smallest* circulation would reap the *largest* profit. Thus the blackmailing journal (or journals) must have had limited circulation, and, therefore, little power to injure the college. In the case of ITEMS OF INTEREST there is no secret as to our relation to college advertising. Having figured out just what it costs to print a page of advertising, we are inserting advertisements for the colleges at actual cost, and as our circulation is steadily increasing we shall probably lose a little on present contracts.

Unethical Advertising in Dental Journals.

Prof. Truman W. Brophy, of the Chicago Dental College, says: "The matter of ethics should apply to professional journalism as well as to schools, and I would call your attention to the fact that dental journals are very often employed for advertising nostrums and extending the sale of useless articles, and for the furthering

of the interests of institutions which admit to their senior class men who have never attended a college before."

This is a subtle intimation that "persons who live in glass houses should not throw stones," and the discussion turns on the question as to whether the positions are analagous.

Dental colleges are managed by members of the dental profession, engaged in the education of men for the dental profession. They are, consequently, fit subjects for criticism when they do anything which is contrary to the best interests of the profession at large. The scientific pages of the dental journal, being placed in the care of dentists, should also be managed in strict accordance with dental ethics.

The dental journals of this country, however, are commercial enterprises, managed by men who are not, in any sense of the word, under the restriction of dental ethics. Where publishers of dental magazines choose to run a magazine in accordance with dental ethics, *they do this as the result of business policy, and not from any desire to advance the interests of the dental profession.*

If, on the other hand, the publishers of other dental publications find that their magazines pay better when they open their advertising pages to the general public, they are not only within their own inalienable rights, but they are also obeying the postal laws of this country, which the professional (?) magazines evade, so that they are running their business in strict accord with *commercial ethics*, even though they do not obey the rules of the dental profession, of which they are not an integral part.

Dentists who have made this criticism, go beyond their rights in attacking commercial men for not obeying professional rules. It comes with poor grace, since it is a fact that many of our dental societies permit the exhibition of nostrums in connection with their professional meetings, which is a species of advertising entirely within the control of the dentists; yet it is permitted for the sake of the few dollars received in exchange for the exhibition space.

If Prof. Brophy could point to anything in the *editorial* management of a dental journal which encourages the use of nostrums, he would be entirely correct in his criticisms, but since the advertising pages of the dental magazines are not, in any sense of the word, in the care of den-

tists, it is difficult to see the justice of his comments. It is with great difficulty, and only by exercising constant care, that we are enabled to keep advertisements of nostrums out of our *scientific* pages, since the manufacturers of these wares, discovering that they cannot obtain reading notices, seem to find little difficulty in persuading *dentists* to forward alleged scientific papers, the true purpose of which is to exploit some new and wonderful remedy.

What would the dental profession think if the Dental Trade Association were to pass resolutions criticising our professional methods of conducting our meetings, our colleges or our practices? We would probably look upon it as a piece of unwarranted impertinence, yet two prominent dental societies passed resolutions criticising trade houses for their methods of conducting the business end of their dental publications.

Colleges May Obtain Patients Without Advertising.

In order to determine whether the really poor could be reached by the colleges, a communication was sent to the Boards of Health of several college cities. This reply arrives just in time for publication:

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY.
Bureau of Health.
PHILADELPHIA, June 19, 1899.

R. OTTOLENGUI, M. D. S.,

DEAR SIR—Replying to your favor of the 16th inst., would say that the subject referred to is one over which this Department has no jurisdiction, but at the same time *there are thousands of people who would gladly avail themselves of free tickets for dental infirmaries.* If you should make arrangements for a dispensary of this kind, and feel so disposed to send free tickets to this Board for distribution, we will see that the same are distributed. Yours truly,

LEVI GOOD,
President Board of Health.

Questions will be answered in this department, provided the answers would be of general interest. After publication our readers are cordially invited to make further reply, criticism or comment.

The Quack Dentist in America.

Dr. C. C. Dills, of Piqua, Ohio, discourses as follows on the subject of the quack:

"The street tooth extractor, of only a few years years ago, with teeth sewed all over his clothes, is gone!

'When we asunder part
It gives us inward pain;'
When he departed asunder
Who felt any inward pain?

And yet, this perambulating, tooth decorating aboriginal was but the prototype of his house progeny today, who gloatingly displays extracted teeth as trophies.

Strange cozenage! Although every State in the Union has a law looking to the saving of teeth, the combined effort is thus largely thwarted, simply, forsooth, because people ask to be mutilated, and the law cannot reach all malpractice any more than we can eradicate all evil.

Huxley truly says: "Ethical nature, while born of cosmic nature, is necessarily, at enmity with its parent." The import of this is similar to the old dogma of depravity, whereby the fight for good over evil is a hard

one. Thus we find it very hard to get all dentists on a uniform high grade code of ethics, and we may find it still harder to bring the Philipinos up to a high grade. And though difficulties should not deter from laudable efforts, we should be on our guard that over strenuous ones might not be misdirected and fanatical. We have had enough missionary martyrs in attempts at rescue, even when the jeopardy was largely chimerical. Even Andover may be right, and the heathen not be damned who never heard of Christ.

Why not let dentists and patients seek their kith and kin, the grade of ethics suited to each, as birds of a feather flock together? Bobby Patterson was simply egotistical when he wanted others to see as he did.

"We killed Bobby Patterson!
In his own nest he was king;
But he sought to pick at other nests,
That they might look like his—
And now poor Mrs. Bobby Lictam is a widow."

Cataphoric Controllers Wanted.

Dr. Weston A. Price, of 2238 Euclid avenue, Cleveland, Ohio, makes the following announcement:

"Since the manufacturers of the following instruments have refused me the privilege of testing their instruments, though I bear all expense and assume the responsibility for their perfect and safe return, I am compelled to ask the profession to assist me in the undertaking to make a report at the National Meeting in August of the absolute efficiency of all the cataphoric controllers of the market. I will be pleased to hear of the whereabouts of a Dow and a Clark & Mills. I will bear all expense of shipment and be personally responsible for the safe return. Kindly correspond by first mail, as there is so little time left."

Patent Rights in Our New Possessions.

Our patent correspondents, Davis & Davis, of Washington, D. C., report that the Secretary of War has issued an order that in territory subject to military government by the forces of the United States, owners of patents, including design patents, and owners of trade-marks, prints and labels, duly registered in the United States Patent Office, shall receive the protection accorded them in the United States, and an infringement of the rights secured by lawful issue of a patent or by registration of a trade-mark, print or label, shall subject

the person guilty of such infringement to the liabilities created and imposed by the laws of the United States relating to said matters; provided, That a duly certified copy of the patent or of the certificate of registration of the trade-mark, print or label, shall be filed in the office of the Governor-General of the island wherein such protection is desired; and, provided, further, That the rights of property in patents and trade-marks secured in the Islands of Cuba, Porto Rico, the Philippines and other ceded territory, to persons under Spanish laws, shall be respected in said territory, the same as if such laws were in full force and effect.

Advertising by Dental Graduates in England.

Dr. Waldo E. Royce, of Tunbridge Wells, England, writes to us as follows:

"I have noticed the remarks of Dr. Hill as reported upon page 257 of the April number of the ITEMS OF INTEREST; also the editorial note upon page 255. The Irish College exacts a pledge somewhat as described by Dr. Hill, but the English School does not. Many an L. D. S. in England advertises in a most disgusting manner. The worst feature of it is that most of them call themselves Americans.

"I enclose a cutting, which may both interest and instruct you."

An L.D.S. and Advertising.—A doctor has enclosed the following advertisement in a letter to the Lancet:

"IBIS."
TOOTHACHE AND NEURALGIA CURE.
Relief Soon as Applied.
(Here is inserted a picture of a molar tooth with an ibis upon it.—Ed. L.)
Full Directions Enclosed.
In Bottles, 1s. 1½d., of all Chemists, or post free from Manufacturer.
Mr. A. B. ROBINSON, L.D.S.R.C.S. Eng.,
Surgeon-Dentist.
29 Seymour Street, Liverpool.
FREE TRIAL SAMPLE Sent, Post Free.

The Lancet remarks:

The advertisement is one to which the attention of the Royal College of Surgeons of England or even that of the General Medical Council may well be called.—Ed. L.

"We are afraid that calling the attention of these august bodies will do no good. The Colleges have not as much power over their members

as they ought to have, and they have none at all over the Licentiates in Dental Surgery. They do not compel any licentiate to undertake not to advertise, he is "extra-mural," he has no part or lot in the College, no vote and no rights. We contend that he ought to be an integral part of the College system, which takes his fees and grants his diplomas. We hope that the authorities, both medical and dental, will band together to have this state of things reformed."

Dental Diplomas in the Netherlands.

Under date of April 10, 1899, Minister Newel sends from The Hague copy of a royal order appearing in the Official Gazette of the 8th inst., according to which persons holding the diploma of doctor of dental medicine issued by the dental department of the faculty of dental medicine of Harvard University at Boston, the dental department of the University of Pennsylvania at Philadelphia, the college of dentistry of the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, or the dental department of the Vanderbilt University at Nashville, shall be admitted to the examinations for dentistry in the Netherlands.—*Consular Reports.*

Death of an Amateur Dentist.

The death is announced, as having occurred at Monkwearmouth, of the Rev. Thos. Snell, in his 79th year. The deceased gentleman, who was widely known in the North of England, had a great reputation as an amateur dentist, and a carefully kept record shows that during the last quarter of a century he had gratuitously extracted 30,000 teeth.—*English Exchange.*

IN MEMORIAM

Report of Committee on Necrology of New York State Dental Society

To the Dental Society of the State of New York,

GENTLEMEN:—The Committee on Necrology regret that it is their duty to report the death of two of our members the past year, that of Dr. A. P. Southwick, who died at Buffalo, June 11, 1898, and Dr. J. P. Geran, who died in Brooklyn, March 28, 1899.

The committee have prepared the following minutes upon the death of these gentlemen, which they respectfully offer for your consideration.

Signed by the committee.

WILLIAM JARVIE,
S. B. PALMER.

The intelligence of the sudden and unexpected death of our friend and colaborer, Dr. A. P. Southwick, of Buffalo, N. Y., awakened within our hearts emotions of the most profound sorrow. While bowing to the Divine Wisdom which has taken him from us, we improve this opportunity of paying a grateful tribute to his memory, and to give expression of our appreciation of him as a man and coworker in the dental profession. All will bear testimony that he was a genial and cordial gentleman, of noble impulses, full of kindly charities and always awake to the interests and progress of his calling. He was enterprising in all his undertakings. The State Board of Dental Examiners, of which he was so long its president; the State Society which likewise enjoyed his wisdom in council and labor for many years, as well as the Dental Department of the University of Buffalo, which has lost an earnest worker, and most efficient teacher, will deplore their loss.

(Signed) WILLIAM JARVIE,
S. B. PALMER.

The State Society of the State of New York has learned with deep regret of the death of one of its honored members, Dr. J. P. Geran, who passed away in Brooklyn, on March 28, 1899.

Dr. Geran became a member of the society in 1885, since which time he has been rarely absent from its meetings, serving faithfully on committees, and always actively interested in all its proceedings. Among his more intimate associates of the Second District, he was valued as a den-

tist of intelligence and skill, one who kept close watch upon the advances made in the dental profession, and was ready to avail himself of their assistance.

A man of good judgment, rare accomplishments and noble qualities, he had endeared himself to a large circle of professional and personal friends who will mourn with his family his untimely end.

Dr. Francis M. Poulson.

Dr. Francis M. Poulson, of Lansingburgh, N. Y., died suddenly at his home in that place on May 18, 1899, at the age of fifty-two years. He had complained the day before of what he supposed to be pain in the stomach, from which neither he nor the physicians whom he consulted anticipated any serious results, but he was found dead in his bed early the next morning.

Dr. Poulson was born near Holmesville, Ohio, in 1847, where he lived until about 1866, when he went to Missouri, and taught school most of the time for several years, after which he studied dentistry, first at Ann Arbor University and then at the Philadelphia College of Dentistry, from which he was graduated March 1, 1882. He practiced first at Shenandoah, Pa., until a disastrous fire swept the town and destroyed his every possession except his diploma. He then located in New York City, and practiced there until about 1890, when he removed to Lansingburgh, and practiced there until his death.

Dr. Poulson was married about 1889 to Miss Lillie S. Bacon, of New York City, who, with their two children, a son and a daughter, survives him. He was a devoted husband and father, was highly esteemed for his genial and kindly disposition, and will always be remembered with affection by all who knew him.

He gave much of his time to the invention of improvements in dental tools and appliances, as well as other devices. Some of his inventions have been patented, some before and some since he studied dentistry. He had two or three applications for patents pending at the time of his death.

National Dental Association.

Railroad arrangements for the meeting of the National Dental Association have not yet been completed. A rate of one and a third fare, on the certificate plan, has been granted by some of the associations; have not had replies from all of them, but think within a week will have, and that all will grant this concession.

Wednesday, Aug. 2, has been arranged as the day on which the special agent of the railroad associations will be at the meeting to qualify certificates. All attending should be sure to get certificate from ticket agent when purchasing ticket going, showing that full fare has been paid, otherwise they will not be entitled to the reduction upon the return ticket. Tickets for reduced rate will be good going July 24 to 27 inclusive, and returning not later than Aug. 9.

Dr. J. Leon Williams, of London, England, will present a paper on Bacteriology.

Reports from secretaries of sections have not been received sufficiently definite to enable us to issue at this time a complete literary programme.

J. N. Crouse,
Chairman Executive Committee,
Chicago, Ill.

New Jersey State Dental Society.

The twenty-ninth annual session of the New Jersey State Dental Society will convene at the Auditorium, Asbury Park, at 10 A. M., Wednesday, July 19, and continue the 20th and 21st. The hotel headquarters will be at the Hotel Columbia. The rates will be $2.50 per day, two in a room; $3 per day, one in a room.

All railroads run to Asbury Park, with New York and Philadelphia as terminal points for the main line of railroads. From New York, Pennsylvania R. R. from foot of Cortlandt and Desbrosses streets; Central R. R. of N. J., foot of Liberty street. From Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

R. R., Broad street; Philadelphia and Reading, Twelfth and Market streets. The trolley at the depot will take the members at once to the "Auditorium" or hotel, no difference in which direction the cars are running (fare five cents).

The chairman of the Exhibit Committee, Dr. William E. Truex, and aides will have absolute charge of all the exhibits. No interference with the chairman's decisions in reference to the management will be allowed.

Exhibitors can express merchandise to the Auditorium direct. A large enclosed space underneath can be used for unpacking and repacking. A watchman will be in attendance all night.

The Entertainment Committee will be located at the Hotel Columbia, opposite Auditorium, under the general chairmanship of Dr. Oscar Adelberg.

Secure your rooms by wire or letter by July 1st.

The Auditorium, with a seating capacity of 2,000, directly on the ocean front, lighted by windows from every side, fanned by the ocean breezes, is an ideal meeting place for a hot summer day. Now, professional brothers cut off the week from July 19, and come to our sessions, and take in, at a trifling cost of $10 or $20, mental and physical food, and you can return to your duties with renewed vigor and higher ambitions of what the American dentist can do.

CHARLES A. MEEKER, D. D. S., Secy.,
29 Fulton Street, Newark, N. J.

ORDERS OF THE ADDRESSES AND ESSAYS.

Wednesday, July 19, 10 A. M.

Opening of session.

Roll call.

Prayer.

Annual address by President J. Allen Osmun, M. D. S., Newark.

Discussion on the same.

Remarks by Dr. C. S. Stockton and others on the late Jeremiah Hayhurst, D. D. S., of Lambertville.

Miscellaneous business, payment of dues and social amenities.

Adjournment.

Essays.

8.15 P. M.

"Conservative Dentistry as Affected by Cataphoresis and Other Recent Teachings." By E. A. Bogue, M. D., of New York.

Discussed by S. E. Davenport, D. D. S.; J. Morgan Howe, M. D., and F. Milton Smith, D. D. S., of New York.

"Habitual Mal-Occlusion; Some of the Results." By W. E. Truex, D. D. S., Freehold, N. J.

Discussed by B. F. Luckey, D. D. S., Paterson; C. W. F. Holbrook, D. D. S., Newark.

Thursday, July 20.

Session at 10 A. M.

A Porcelain Session.

"The Value of High Fusing Porcelain in Contour Fillings." By Joseph Head, M. D., D. D. S., Philadelphia, Pa.

"The Jenkins System of Porcelain Inlays." By N. S. Jenkins, D. D. S., Dresden, Germany.

"The Porcelain Era." By W. A. Capon, D. D. S., Philadelphia, Pa.

Discussions by Edwin T. Darby, M. D., D. D. S.; R. Ottolengui, M. D. S.; Charles A. Meeker, D. D. S.

Thursday Evening, 8.15 P. M.

"Oral Embryology," illustrated with numerous lantern slides from original sections. By I. Norman Broomell, D. D. S., Philadelphia, Pa.

Discussed by John I. Hart, D. D. S., New York; A. P. Brubaker, D. D. S., Philadelphia.

Friday, July 21.

Morning Session, 10 A. M.

"Aseptic Environment." By M. L. Rhein, M. D., D. D. S., New York.

Discussed by R. M. Sanger, D. D. S., East Orange.

"Experiences with Split and Perforated Roots." By Nelson W. Chitterling, D. D. S., Bloomfield.

Discussed by Leon Goble, D. D. S., Toms River.

"Cause and Prevention of Dental Decay." By George Howe Winkler, M. D., D. D. S., of New York.

Discussed by C. S. Stockton, D. D. S., Newark.

List of Clinics.

Thursday, July 20, 2 P. M.

1. Joseph Head, M. D., D. D. S., Philadelphia. Porcelain inlays with electric furnace.
2. W. St. George Elliott, M. D., D. D. S., New York. Rapid operations in tin and gold; original exhibits; hand piece, straight and right angle mallet, pneumatic mallet, broach holder.

3. R. H. Nones, D. D. S., Philadelphia. Subject to be announced.
4. J. C. Graft, D. D. S., Newark. Improved method of casting zinc dies direct from impression.
5. W. A. Capon, D. D. S., Philadelphia. Porcelain inlays, crowns and sections.
6. J. A. Waas, D. D. S., Hammonton, N. J. Extracting all lower teeth and roots with one pair of forceps.
7. William H. Mitchell, D. D. S., Bayonne, N. J. Dynamo driven by water power to furnish electric current.
8. N. S. Jenkins, D. D. S., Dresden. Low fusing porcelain inlays. (Jenkins' furnace).
9. Thomas W. Onderdonk, D. D. S., New York. Combination matrix holder and crown adjuster.
10. Sol. Freeman, D. D. S., New York. Hints for office and laboratory.
11. Dr. Howard L. Stewart, Greenville, Miss. A clinic on "Pyorrhea Alveolaris."
12. W. B. Kenison, D. D. S., New York. Exhibit of models demonstrating the extraction of six-year molars.
13. F. J. McLaren, D. D. S., New York. Demonstration of continuous gum work.

The National Association of Dental Examiners.

The annual session will be held at Niagara Falls, N. Y., commencing at 10 o'clock A. M., Friday, July 28, and continuing the 29th and 31st. The International Hotel will be the headquarters, and the rates will be $3, $3.50 and $4 per day, according to location of rooms. As the sessions commence in advance of the National Association, write ahead and secure rooms as members of the National Association of Dental Examiners.

It is hoped that every State will be represented by delegates with certificates signed by the president and secretary of their respective boards.

CHARLES A. MEEKER, D. D. S., Secy.,
29 Fulton St., Newark, N. J.

Maine Dental Society.

The thirty-fourth annual meeting of the Maine Dental Society will be held in Pittsfield, Maine, July 18 and 19, 1899.

All members of the dental profession are cordially invited to attend the sessions.

H. A. KELLEY,
600 Congress St., Portland, Me.

Minnesota State Dental Association.

The sixteenth annual meeting of the Minnesota State Dental Association will be held at Northfield, July 25, 26 and 27, 1899.

Steps are being taken to make this the best meeting of the association. All dentists are invited to attend.

H. L. CRUTTENDEN, Secy.,
Northfield, Minn.

Tennessee State Dental Association.

The thirty-second annual meeting of the Tennessee Dental Association will be held on Lookout Mountain, Chattanooga, July 4-6, 1899. An interesting programme has been arranged, and a cordial invitation is extended to all members of the profession.

A. SIDNEY PAGE, Sec.,
Columbia, Tenn.

California State Board of Dental Examiners.

The next meeting of the California State Board of Dental Examiners for candidates for license to practice will begin first Tuesday in August, 9 A. M., in San Francisco.

W. A. MOORE, Sec.,
Benicia, Cal.

Virginia State Dental Association.

The thirtieth annual session of the Virginia State Dental Association will be held in the parlors of Hygeia Hotel, Old Point Comfort, Va., July 25, 26 and 27, 1899.

A cordial invitation is extended to all members of the profession.

IRVIN B. SMITH,
Chairman Executive Committee,
Richmond, Va.